Daily Report

Latin America

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Next OAS Meeting in Santo Domingo, Nov '89

PA1711143688 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] In San Salvador today, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, was chosen as the site for the 19th OAS General Assembly. The assembly is to meet in that Caribbean country on the second Monday in November 1989.

OAS General Assembly Activity Reported

Cuba's Return Discussed

FL1811020188 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0029 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares said today that there is a growing interest on promoting Cuba's return to the OAS.

In an exclusive interview with the Italian press agency, IPS [Inter Press Service], Baena said that as a country, Cuba continues to be a part of the OAS. He said that to discuss this situation, there must be joint interest on the part of the Government of Cuba and the member states.

I would like to remind you that Cuba was excluded from the OAS on 31 January 1962 during a meeting held at the Punte del Este resort, in Uruguay, after an aggressive initiative was led by the United States.

Verification Plan Lauded

PA1711202888 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Excerpts] The Nicaraguan, Honduran, and Salvadoran foreign ministers believe the verification and control proposal presented by Costa Rica at the OAS can bring about some progress at the upcoming preparatory meeting of regional foreign ministers. This meeting will be held in Mexico City on 28 and 29 November. The Costa Rican proposal calls for the establishment of a verification and control commission to supervise the Nicaraguan, Honduran, and Salvadoran borders. The verification and control commission would be formed by the FRG, Canada, Spain, and one country from the so-called Group of Eight. The commission would be sponsored by the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said he thinks the Costa Rican proposal will receive a boost during the preparatory meeting, especially if the proposal helps clear the way for progress in the Esquipulas agreement. [passage omitted]

Lopez on Obstacles to Peace

PA1711164988 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] During the 18th OAS session in San Salvador on 16 November, Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras reported the existence of extraregional political interests which are hampering peace efforts in the area.

The Honduran foreign minister appealed to the Soviet Union to refrain from creating conditions that would peace efforts. He lauded the anti-Sandinist rebels for not accepting U.S. aid and criticized Salvadoran guerrillas for relying on U.S. power. [sentence as heard]

COPPPAL Delegation on Visit to USSR

PA1811000988 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Nov 88 pp A-1, B-16

[Text] Several matters were discussed during the visit of a COPPPAL [Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties] delegation to the USSR from 5 to 12 November 1988. The delegation was headed by COPPPAL President Carlos Ozores, who was accompanied by the organization's executive secretary, Nils Castro, and Vice Presidents Luis Negreiros, APRA secretary general, and Alejandro Sobarzo, Mexican PRI senator. The other members of the entourage were: Senator Mauricio Correa, who represented Leonel Brizola of the Brazilian PDT [Democratic Workers Party]; Bolivian MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] Member Guillermo Capobiando, who represented Jaime Paz Mora; Nicaraguan FSLN Representative Aldo Diaz; Venezuelan MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] Representative Pompeya Marquez; and Chilean Radical Party Representative Hugo Vigorena.

The Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Latin America (CSSPAL) had invited the COPPPAL delegation to visit the country and to learn more about the perestroyka process and its effect on international relations.

The COPPPAL delegation had the opportunity to meet with social scientists of the Economy Institute and other institutes. They were also able to learn about progress made in the field of disarmament, which resulted from the agreement between the leaders of the United States and the USSR in Washington in 1987.

Attention was also given to subjects such as the foreign debt and the need for a negotiated solution to the Central American conflict in accordance with the Contadora Group guidelines and the Esquipulas II agreements. In these meetings, the fundamental principles of self-determination and nonintervention to attain an honorable and lasting peace was stressed.

The COPPPAL delegates emphasized perestroyka's democratic and innovative spirit. It was duly noted that perestroyka had a positive effect on international relations since it encourages peace, coexistence, and development.

The COPPPAL delegation thanked the CSSPAL for the invitation to visit and invited a CSSPAL delegation to attend the forthcoming 16th COPPPAL plenary as observers. The plenary will be held in Quito, Ecuador, in 1989 and will provide an opportunity for the enhancement of relations between these two organizations.

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Cuba

Government Approves Quadripartite Agreement

FL1811121588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] GRANMA newspaper published today a note reporting that the Cuban Government has informed the U.S. Government of its approval for the agreement reached at the most recent Geneva quadripartite meeting. The agreement was left pending until the participating country's governments approved it.

Latest Talks 'Successful'

PA1811031288 Havana International Service in Spanish 0005 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Alcibiades Hidalgo, Cuban delegation spokesman at the ninth round of negotiations has described the meeting held recently in Geneva as successful.

Hidalgo said that in this meeting, there was a broad discussion of the timetable for the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist forces, which, he said, totals 50,000 men. The timetable calls for the withdrawal of the Cuban contingent over a period of more than 2 years.

The Cuban spokesman said that, by virtue of its internal structure, the timetable guarantees the security of Angola and the Cuban forces which, he said, are indispensable prerequisites for achieving a satisfactory agreement. He said that this is a complex, large-scale military operation because it involves the return of all kinds of weaponry and technical equipment to Cuba which had been sent to Angola over the past 13 years.

Hidalgo said that during the period of the withdrawal, troop replacements will be carried out as usual.

Talks To End Injustices

FL1711172188 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1527 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Commentary by Fernando Delgado Ortega]

[Text] The satisfactory progress for a negotiated solution in southwest Africa achieved at the ninth round of quadripartite talks held in Geneva will bring to an end in the next Brazzaville meeting, one of the most shameful injustices of humanity—the illegal occupation of South Africa in Namibia.

Over 10-years-ago on 29 September 1978, the UN Security Council with 12 votes in favor, none against, and two abstentions, ordered the withdrawal of South African occupation forces from Namibia, and the transfer of power to the people in the African territory. However, the apartheid regime ignored the United Nations, and remained illegally in Namibia because this facilitated its aggression against Angola.

On various occasions, regarding Namibia, the press cites UN Security Council Resolution No 435. That document was the one which over 10-years-ago ordered that independence be granted to Namibia—illegally occupied by South Africa. In one of its paragraphs, Resolution No 435 establishes under the authority of the UN Security Council an assistance group for the 12-month transition period. This was to guarantee quick independence for the Namibian territory, through free elections supervised by the United Nations. The far-reaching document stresses the decision of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, to cease fighting against the racist occupation in order to facilitate the application of the UN resolution.

In its fifth paragraph, the UN Security Council Resolution No 435 dated 29 September 1978 exhorts South Africa to immediately cooperate with the secretary general in the application of that document to grant independence to Namibia. The exhortation of the Security Council concludes by saying that all unilateral measures adopted by the illegal administration in Namibia, which were imposed by South African occupation, are useless and without validity. Now, after the ninth round of negotiations, the independence of Namibia begins to become a reality. Once the mandate issued by the UN Security Council over 10 years ago is fulfilled, it will be recorded in history as a victory for the alliance among Angolans, Namibians, and Cubans.

Castro Converses With Doctors at Health Meeting

FL1711175088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1223 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Exchange between President Fidel Castro and participants of the Second international seminar on primary health care at Havana's Palace of Conventions on 16 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

[First unidentified speaker] When you went to Camaguey for the inauguration of the Tinima factory—I don't know if you remember—you went to a school where teachers are trained. You suggested—because there was only one doctor and there were many students, in fact at that time there were more, there were some 1,700 students—that two doctors should be there. When I went to the school, another doctor had already begun the program. This is why I said that during the previous 1984-85 school year, the school did not have the services of a doctor. The program began in 1985-86 and I participated in 1986-87 and 1987-88.

[Castro] How many are there?

[First speaker] There are two now.

[Castro] Oh, there are two.

[First speaker] I finished my work at the school. I began my residency in [words indistinct] medicine in September. I finished in July.

[Castro] Right. There are two. We are thinking of taking doctors to schools with 300 students. There might be a case when a doctor might not be used that much. I say that a school of 300... [changes thought]. We are going to send doctors to child care centers with 210 children. We are going to take them to those levels. Listening to you I was thinking that when a doctor is taking care of a school with 300 or 400 students.... [changes thought] prototype schools we want to build in the future—we are going to replace 100 old school—they will have 400 or 450 students. You believe you can do a better job [words indistinct] when you have to take care of 450 students.

I have an important question. [Words indistinct] so we can learn. What kind of specialist do you think a school such as that one should have? A specialist in general comprehensive medicine? [words indistinct]

[First speaker] Well, I believe that ....

[Castro, interrupting] In other words, it doesn't have to a pediatrician.

[First speaker] No, it doesn't have to be a pediatrician. Our population is basically healthy. They are teenagers. From the physical point of view, they are healthy but they are teenagers. They are at a stage in life....

[Castro, interrupting] Don't you believe that a well-trained specialist in general comprehensive medicine can take care of the population you are talking about?

[First speaker] Yes, of course.

[Castro] Including the school workers?

[First speaker] Sure, including the school workers.

[Second unidentified speaker] We began our work by conducting a survey of our entire population. We went door to door. We thought that in this way we could introduce ourselves to our population and at the same time we could find out the problems each family had. We saw what the situation was, from the health and epidemiological point of view, individually and in general.

[Castro] Are there many children under 1-year-old?

[Second speaker] Fifteen, 15 percent.

[Castro] And the [words indistinct] or the area, what kind of infant mortality rate does the municipality have?

[Second speaker] The Trinidad Municipality....

[Castro, interrupting] Not Trinidad. You are in the mountainous area.

[Second speaker] Mountainous area.

[Castro] How many family doctors are there in the mountainous area?

[Second speaker] Five of us take care of the Caracusey polyclinic.

[Castro] The five of you work in the mountainous area. What infant mortality rate do you have between all of you?

[Second speaker] Between the five of us? Zero. Between the five of us we have zero mortality rate.

[Castro] Zero mortality rate! [applause]

[UNICEF representative] All of this should make us think very hard so we can see what accounts for these achievements. Above all, we must see which things can be implemented in our Latin American countries. In the northeastern, Andean, or in some indigenous areas, especially in Mexico and Central America, a million children still die—75 percent of them—from totally controllable and avoidable causes.

Speaking with other colleagues, we identified three aspects—without being all inclusive. The first aspect is the political will. I believe that the political will is the factor that lays the foundation for a specific and wide-ranging action. Our Latin American countries are so battered with the foreign debt, with the (?recession and inflation) crisis, that UNICEF estimates that approximately 500,000 deaths are imminient and directly related to this economic crisis in Latin America.

[Castro] Even under the current conditions [words indistinct] and with very little resources, any Latin American government can reduce—without a revolution—can reduce infant mortality rate to 25 [not further specified] in the 1st year.

We are killing [words indistinct] for the sake of it. I know you were referring to up to 5 years. In some countries the infant mortality rate is over 100. Some Latin American countries have a low one. They have less than 25. The statistics are real.

I am convinced that a very low cost health program—because if we start saying that a lot of money is needed, there is no money—I am convinced that infant mortality rate can be reduced to 25 with little spending in [words indistinct] Latin American countries. Say, up to [the age of] 5 years—from the ages of 1 to 5 or from birth or 1 month of age to 5 years—it could be reduced to 30. With this, the lives of 700,000 children could be saved. We are killing 700,000 children a year. We are condemning them to death because of indecisiveness, indifference, passiveness, ignorance, or whatever.

Human rights advocates don't talk about this. Those little campaigns are organized, they are—how do you say?—orchestrated. They are related to the struggle still being conducted in this country, to the political ideological struggle, to the Western influence still remaining in our country, and to antisocial factors. Confusion is organized.

I say none of them mentions it in this hemisphere. Imperialism, its system, its neocolonialism, and its inefficiency are killing 700,000 children a year. This is a truly brutal assault on man's human rights. They are doing this in the Third World, everywhere. This is the cost of neocolonialism and of economic, political, and all kinds of dominance exerted over our countries. As a UNICEF representative, I believe that you have touched on a key point. Is it or is it not possible?

My opinion is—I believe this answer can be substantiated—that it is possible. [applause]

Family Doctors Praised

FL1711224288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The penultimate day of the Second International Seminar on Primary Health Care began today with a special speech by His Excellency Archbishop Msgr (Florenzo Angelini), president of the pontifical commission in charge of the health department of the Vatican. The session, which is being held here at the Palace of Conventions, is presided over by Vilma Espin, the Federation of Cuban Women's president.

In his speech, the distinguished representative of the Catholic Church thanked the Cuban Government for its invitation to this event which is being attended by health ministers from eight countries, and by important specialists in the health field. The work of family doctors was praised in front of national and foreign delegates.

Fidel, Raul Castro Meet With SRV Leader

FL1711134088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, yesterday received Army General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the SRV, and the delegation accompanying him. Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC and minister of the FAR, also participated in the meeting.

Fidel and Raul held a fraternal exchange of views with General Vo Nguyen Giap on his visit in our country, which he described as very fruitful. They also talked about various matters of mutual interest, including scientific-technical cooperation. SRV Ambassador to Cuba Do Van Tai was also present.

Vietnamese Leader Departs

FL1711141988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Army General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the SRV, has ended his friendly visit to our country. He was seen off at the airport by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the FAR.

Shortly before his departure, the distinguished leader placed a floral wreath at Lieutenant General Antonio Maceo and his aide Panchito Gomez Toro's tomb. He also placed a floral wreath at the obelisk honoring communist leader Blas Roca Calderio. The Vietnamese leader was accompanied by Raul and SRV Ambassador to Cuba Do Van Tai.

Severo Aguirre Receives Netherlands Delegation

FL1511142588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] A delegation from the Kingdom of the Netherlands has arrived in Havana at the invitation of the National Assembly of the Peoples' Government [ANPP]. ANPP Acting President Severo Aguirre del Cristo received the delegation.

Aguirre del Cristo noted that there are ties between Cuba and the Netherlands and that they will become closer with the visit.

For their part, Amsterdam Mayor [name indistinct] and representatives of Amsterdam's chamber of commerce and industry said they were pleased at meeting the Cuban parliamentarians.

Jorge Risquet Meets With FRG Delegation

FL1811031988 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Oskar Lafontaine, vice president of the German Social Democratic Party and minister president of the local government of the FRG's Saar region, is, as of today in Cuba. He is heading his country's delegation to the FRG-Cuba seminar. The seminar is being sponsored by the (Ever) Foundation, which is dedicated to social research, and by the Cuban Center of West European Studies.

Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, and chief of the Central Committee's General Department of Foreign Relations, today held his first meeting with Lafontaine and his delegation.

The fourth FRG-Cuba seminar will study cultural policies and will begin on 21 November in Havana's Palace of Conventions. Cinema, literature, and discussions on the cultures of both countries will be included in the 3-day seminar.

Jan-Oct Sugar Production Goals Surpassed

FL1511224588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2059 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The 40,000 sugar producers of Las Tunas have overfulfilled their production plan for the first 10 months by producing over 39 million pesos worth of sugar.

The sugar sector was the only one in the nation to beat its mercantile production goal for the January-October period. Nationally, the province achieved a 97 percent production rate.

Another factor contributing to the Sugar Ministry's success was Las Tunas' over production in the last harvest, a goal reached for the sixth consecutive year, as well as the progress made in the production of sugar derivatives and other secondary products.

Presently, the Sugar Ministry's enterprises and organizations in the province are preparing themselves for the beginning of the next harvest, which is scheduled for the beginning of December.

ICAP, GDR Sign Agreement; Medals Awarded

FL1811035788 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The close ties between the GDR's League of Friendship Among Peoples and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP] were strengthened this afternoon. In a meeting held at ICAP headquarters, institute President Rene Rodriguez Cruz, member of the PCC Central Committee, gave [words indistinct] award to his counterpart, Gerald Goetting. In turn, the fraternal GDR delegation gave Rene Rodriguez the GDR's Medal of Peace.

At ICAP headquarters, the delegates signed a work agreement that will last until 1990.

'Moncada 88' Exercises Said 'Satisfactory'

FL1811003488 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The "Moncada 88" exercises, which began yesterday in Pinar del Rio, have been described as satisfactory by Brigade General Ramon Pardo Guerra, chief of the Eastern Army, on a visit he paid to the Defense Council in Pinar del Rio Province.

Fidel Ramos Perera, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the Executive Bureau of the province, stressed the importance of examining all parts of the exercises. The maneuvers will continue until tomorrow, 18 November.

These operations are being conducted with the objective of improving the combative readiness of all elements involved in the nation's defense.

The provincial defense council, 7 municipalities, 50 percent of the defense councils from various zones in the territory, and a production and defense brigade have all participated in the exercises. Other objectives include testing the Defense Council's abilities to fulfill their missions, as well as their decisionmaking capabilities.

Caricom

Ministers Cite Concern Regarding Radio Signals

FL1611202788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1710 GMT 16 Nov 88

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 16, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) telecommunications ministers, winding up a two-day meeting in Grenada Wednesday, are expected to have a long, hard look at complaints about outside interference with broadcasting signals.

According to Caricom's Deputy Secretary-general Louis Wiltshire, during a meeting of officials that preceded the ministerial session, there were complaints of interference by community members and other countries, such as Venezuela, and the French Caribbean island departments. "We have not yet found an effective way of getting those interferences dealt with and eliminated", he said. "One of the recommendations which ministers would have before them is for the consideration of joint action by those countries which are affected, and there are at least five of them in relation to Venezuelan transmissions", he added.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines have a dispute with Barbados over television frequency regulation. Conference sources told CANA that Vincentian Communications and Works Minister Allan Cruickshank is expected to raise the issue at the ministers meeting.

Wiltshire also disclosed that during the meeting the ministers are expected to settle on a single Caribbean candidate to seek election on the administrative council of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to be held in France in May. He said that since 1982 there has been no Caribbean member on the council because the region has been unable in sufficient time to settle on a single candidate.

He warned ministers that when the Caribbean is divided on such issues, Latin America normally moves in and asserts what it regards as its right "to take all". "That is an issue which ministers themselves would have to resolve because there are potentially three candidates in the ring", he said. Wiltshire without elaborating, however said there are indications that the matter would be resolved. "We have barely 6 months left so ministers would have the challenge before them of making a decisive settlement of that issue at this session", he remarked.

The ITU which is the specialised United Nations agency for telecommunications has earmarked eight seats for the Americas, the region the Caribbean has been slotted into.

Dominican Republic

* Balaguer Reelection Said Impossible

32480025b Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Oct 88 p 8

[Excerpt] Today, Deputy Hatuey de Camps expressed the view that President Joaquin Balaguer has no chance of returning to power, because "not even Mandrake the Magician" could be reelected given the economic situation that the country is experiencing as a result of inflation.

The secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) also charged that "a disgusting campaign" is being conducted through Dominican Radio-Television to dishonor Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez and his family.

Interviewed by Elis Perez and Miledy Cabral at the breakfast meeting, De Camps claimed that the people had voted for Balaguer in the belief that, as at other times, he would cut prices for food amd medicine, but that inflation has reached unprecedented levels.

He noted that, under the current conditions, wherein inflation rates exceed 60 percent and the dollar has risen over 6 pesos, it would be impossible for him to run as a candidate again.

Nevertheless, he remarked that Balaguer knows that, if he declares now that he will not be reelected; "that pack of hounds behind him would fight him."

He declared that the head of state must realize that he cannot handle the country's crisis alone, and needs to consult the political leaders in particular, so as to adopt future measures, such as that relating to the rise in gasoline prices.

De Camps stressed Dr Balaguer's clearheadedness and experience, commenting that, if it were not for him, the country would have become a volcano. [passage omitted]

* Economic, Social Situation Worsens

* Food Prices Rise

32480025c Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Oct 88 p 5

[Text] The wave of speculation is continuing unchecked. A pound of red kidney beans costs up to 5 pesos, and a pound of garlic is already priced at 12 pesos.

Meanwhile, the Price Control Directorate has announced an offensive against speculation, claiming that "the excessive rise in prices will be properly checked."

The price control director, General Leoncio Garcia y Garcia, retired announced that, as of yesterday, stores where chicken is sold were militarized, to force them to sell the product retail.

Kidney beans are expected to show a slight price reduction starting tomorrow, because yesterday the Price Stabilization Institute (INESPRE) began distributing the pinto variety, but only in the capital.

Business leaders claimed that, if the agency made pinto bean deliveries regular, the product's price could drop; although they doubt that the reduction would include the red variety.

Domingo Luzon, chairman of the Santo Domingo Merchants Association, declared that, just last week, a kilogram of red kidney beans cost 4.30 pesos, but that an upward escalation had begun, bringing the price of a kilogram to over 9 pesos.

A pound of garlic sells for 11 pesos wholesale, and the price rises to 12 pesos from the retailer to the consumer.

Luzon reported that, based on the information in his possession, INESPRE will soon import garlic to supply the national market, and to apply pressure for a drop in price.

He noted that, when the government allowed market forces to regulate the sale of rice, a 125-pound bag of the "select" type commanded a price of 69 pesos; one must now pay between 145 and 155 pesos.

Luzon remarked that there is a severe shortage of edible pastas, claiming that a pound of any variety of pasta costs as much as 2 pesos.

Another product that has undergone a considerable price hike is potatoes, a pound of which costs 1.50 pesos.

Herring and pike have disappeared from the market, and a pound of codfish costs about 10 pesos.

Regarding the shortage of the various types of soaps, the business leader noted that there is apparently a lack of raw material, preventing the industries from making regular deliveries.

Yesterday, Abigail Soto, chairman of the National Federation of Retail Merchants, said that, with the failure to deliver soap, what the manufacturers are doing is to force new price hikes by creating an artificial shortage.

The Price Control Directorate reported that, yesterday, dealers who refused to sell chicken by the pound were forced to retail the product whenever consumers so requested.

It declared that the agency's head, General Leoncio Garcia y Garcia led the operations carried out yesterday by the military and the inspectors serving in the Price Control Directorate, who toured the areas with the highest incidence of speculation and forced merchants to abide by the law and the decisions in effect.

In a note, the Industry and Commerce Secretariat stated that its head, Jose Manuel Trullols, backs the price control director's final decisions.

* Poultry Stores Militarized

32480025c Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Oct 88 p 5

[Text] Today, the coordinator of the Integrated Consumer and Producer Protection Program (PROINPRO), agronomist Ramon Santos, announced that the government is militarizing stores selling chicken so that it will be sold at controlled prices.

Santos did not go into further detail on the militarization procedure, and gave assurance, although he did not announce a date, that a shipment of frozen chicken that the government is importing to sell at low prices will soon be arriving from Uruguay.

He expressed the view that chicken producers should approach the authorities in order to reach agreement on the production of this food at lower prices.

Nevertheless, he defended the importing of chicken, noting that the government cannot fail to maintain a strategic reserve of a food that he described as important to the people.

He said that the government's chicken reserve is warranted even more by the proximity of the Christmas holidays, when merchants sell most food at twice its price.

Santos announced the militarization of stores where chicken is sold during an interview that he granted to the producers of the television program, Hoy Mismo [Today], Mirna Pichardo and Frank Arredondo.

He rejected the charge that irregularities involving some 42 million pesos had been committed in PROINPRO, and regarded as false the claim that an allegedly implicated employee had gone abroad.

* Housing Costs Double

32480025c Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 12 Oct 88 p D-1

[Text] The president of the Mortgage Banks Association and executive vice president of the Dominican Mortgage Bank claimed that the cost of a small lower middle class dwelling increased over 200 percent during the past 4 years.

Eng Luis Molina Achecar remarked that a typical dwelling with 3 rooms and a shed intended for middle income families had sold on the market for 65,000 pesos and, in 1986, the price of that same dwelling increased to 92,100 pesos, 47 percent more than its sales price in 1984.

Two years later, that is, in 1988, that dwelling which cost a total of 65,000 pesos in 1984 is currently being sold for 190,000 pesos, representing a 105 percent increase over its 1986 sales price.

Interviewed by Juan Guiliani Cury on the Sunday program, Debate Economica [Economic Debate], aired on TV channel 13, the Mortgage Banks Association president declared that, to purchase a small dwelling, a lower middle class family would have to earn a current monthly income of over 10,000 pesos.

He noted that, to purchase that small dwelling in 1984, with 70 percent financing for 10 years, the purchasing or benefiting family had to pay a monthly installment of 170 pesos, but, in 1986, the installment rose to 1,714 pesos, virtually doubling, because bank interest increased from 14 to 16 percent.

In 1988, however, that family, with 70 percent financing, will have to earn 2,800 pesos per month to pay for it. The current interest rate is 24 percent.

He explained that, in 4 years, the price to be paid for the aforementioned model dwelling rose from 660 to 2,800 pesos per month.

He remarked that, in 1984, to purchase a small dwelling (which then cost 65,000 pesos), one had to have a family income of 2,600 pesos, and, in 1986, that family income had to rise to 4,400 pesos; in 1988, one must earn 11,000 pesos to have an opportunity to purchase a house that cost 65,000 pesos in 1984.

Molina Achecar said that construction costs have risen considerably, and that interest rates for housing had changed, owing to the effects of inflation.

He claimed that the housing shortage has become greatly exacerbated, "despite the government's efforts to provide housing for large sectors of the population."

* 1,800 Minibuses Strike

32480025c Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Oct 88 p 9

[Text] Over 1,800 minibuses will stop operating tomorrow and on Thursday in the southern region, demanding that the Technical Transport Office (OTT) suspend the operating permits of Caribe Tours vehicles in Barahona and San Juan de la Maguana.

The strike, which will begin at 0600 hours, will end at the same time on Friday; however, if the government agency does not meet the demand, it could be extended for an indefinite period. It has been called by the Southern Passenger Carriers Union (UTRAPASUR).

Also included in the demand is the rebuilding of the section of the Sanchez Highway between San Cristobal and Bani.

In addition to San Cristobal and Bani, the work stoppage will directly affect San Jose de Ocoa, Azua, Padres Las Casas, San Juan de la Maguana, Las Matas de Farfan, Elias Pina, Barahona, Pedernales, Cabral, Tamayo, Vicente Noble, El Cercado, Vallejuelo, Jimani, Enriquillo, Oviedo, and other southern localities.

The trade unionists, Victor de Leon, Justo Herman de Lemos, Nicolas Malena, and Napoleon Pena, who are UTRAPASUR's president, press and advertising secretary, records and correspondence secretary, and finance secretary, respectively, claimed that, before making the decision, they had exhausted all peaceful means, and that nothing has succeeded in resolving a conflict "which is harming all of us."

At a press conference at the Autonomous Confederation of Classist Trade Unions (CASC), the four UTRAPASUR leaders declared that the OTT director, Engineer Fernando Moore, "has deceived us like children, promising to solve the problem by Monday at the latest; and yet the Caribe Tours buses are still driving around the south."

However, the Drivers Renewal Movement (MORECHO), the National Drivers Interunion Federation (FEINCHO), the Christian Social Transport Workers Federation (FENATRANSC), and the Drivers Struggle Committee (CLC) support "all the measures" being adopted by OTT because they think that the agency and its director are interpreting the basic principles of President Joaquin Balaguer.

At a press conference, the secretaries general of the four union organizations, Alfredo Linares (Cambita), Galeol Taveras, Mario Diaz, and Servio Ovalles, claimed to be the authentic representatives of the transport workers, and consider "the measures adopted by Eng Fernando Moore" to be correct.

They called upon drivers to militantly support and back the work being done by OTT to solve the transportation crisis.

* CUP Announces Strikes

32480025c Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Oct 88 p 15

[Text] Today, the Popular Unity Council (CUP) announced the initiation of a series of staggered work stoppages in the capital's poor districts that would culminate in a strike in the entire metropolitan area if the government does not revise its economic policy.

The struggle program, called National Protest Drive, also includes work stoppages in interior communities to make local demands.

The announcement regarding the staggered work stoppages that will begin next week in the eastern section of the city was made at a press conference today by the CUP coordinators, Isidro Torres, Virtudes Alvarez, and Rafael Ramirez.

The districts scheduled to come to a halt next Tuesday, 18 October, are Villa Duarte, Maquiteria, Los Mameyes, Isabelita, Los Cocos, and Nueva Francia, among others.

With the work stoppage, there will be pressure for provision of the Villa Duarte high school, and construction of the Celina Pilier school.

The CUP leaders reported that, from 19 to 22 October, there will be a shutdown in the Vietnam, San Antonio, Puerto Rico, and Catanga sections of Los Minas, to demand street repairs and the completion of the sections' school. They are also asking for a solution to the water shortage.

They claimed that similar activities would be carried out in Capotillo, Simon Bolivar, Las Canitas, Espaillat, Guaricano, Villa Mella, Sabana Perdida, and La Victoria.

* FNP Applies for Political Party Status

32480025d Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 4 Oct 88 p 3

[Text] Yesterday, Progressive National Force (FNP) submitted to the Central Electoral Board (JCE) the documentation for procuring its recognition and participating in the 1990 elections.

The documents were delivered to the acting secretary of the electoral court, Dr Adalberto Maldonado Fernandez, by Dr Luis Vargas and Celso Marranzini, FNP vice presidents.

Marranzini said that a list containing the signatures of 158,231 sympathizers and members of the political organization was also submitted.

He added: "We also hope that the Identity Card Directorate and the Civil Status Clerk's Offices will come under the control of the JCE."

Maldonado Fernandez remarked that the JCE would study the document so as to give a prompt response to FNP.

He added: "We have entered a record that it has been received, complying with Article 38 of the Electoral Law, so as to take that document into consideration subsequently."

He commented that he "congratulated FNP because, with this step, the future of elections is guaranteed, as the citizens expect."

The function was also attended by Pelegrin Castillo, Rafael Alvarez Perez, Dr Antonio Baez, and Engineer Jaime Alsina Jr, who are FNP leaders.

*** Revenues Through August Top 2.8 Billion Pesos**
32480025a Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Sep 88 pp 1, 17

[Text] Government revenues, including those from external sources, totaled 2.875 billion pesos between January and August of this year; this means an average of nearly 360 million per month, and a 35-percent increase over last year.

During the same period last year, fiscal revenues were approximately 500 million pesos less.

Last month's revenues, counting August, already published by the National Budget Office, exceeded the year's monthly average, reaching 399.2 million pesos.

In addition, income from external sources totaled 129.8 million pesos.

The breakdown of the internal revenues is as follows:

Customs, 177.2 million pesos; income tax, 85.5 million pesos; internal income, 89.9 million pesos; national lottery, 8.2 million pesos; and other unspecified revenues, 38.3 million pesos.

During the month, the authorized appropriations totaled 397.2 million pesos, leaving cash assets totaling 2 million for the month.

Other external fund outlays amounted to 121.6 million pesos.

If the current rate continues, fiscal revenues would exceed 4 billion pesos.

Grenada

Mitchell Predicts Majority Win for NNP
FL1511223988 Bridgetown CANA in English 2258 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpt] St George's, Grenada, Nov 14, CANA—Grenada's Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell says the ruling New National Party (NNP) government could win up to 11 of the 15 parliamentary seats in the next general elections.

Mitchell who is the party's general-secretary made the comment at Sunday's second NNP general council meeting, the second highest decisionmaking body within the party structure. He told delegates that the party seemed to be well-placed to win in the constituencies of St George's north-west, and north-east, as well as St John's, St Patrick's east, St Andrew's north-east, and St Mark's, provided changes were made.

He said that the NNP was also doing "reasonably well" in St Patrick's west, St George's south-east, and St George's south-all held by members of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC).

Mitchell announced that the situation looked extremely ominous for the NNP in Carriacou and Petit Martinique [place-name as received] held by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, the St Andrew's south-east seat held by Junior Minister for Tourism Pauline Andrews, and Felix Alexanders St Mark's seat. He predicts the ruling party losing those two seats along with St Mark's if changes are not made.

The NNP, which won 14 of the 15 seats in the 1984 poll, has seen its majority dwindle to 9-6 with several key ministers defecting in 1986 to form the NDC. [passage omitted]

Mitchell Urges Rethinking of Trade Strategy
FL1611194188 Bridgetown CANA in English 2328 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 15, CANA—Senior Grenada Government Minister Dr Keith Mitchell wants Caribbean community (Caricom) governments to rethink the region's strategy of import substitution, extensive regulations and other forces of trade restrictions.

Mitchell, who is Grenada's minister of public utilities, urged Caricom governments to focus their attention more on coordination of information. "It is this type of coordination which presents the opportunity for lasting solutions to our perennial issues of substantive trade deficits and fluctuations in foreign exchange rates and high unemployment rates," he said.

Mitchell's remarks were made at Tuesday's opening in Grenada of a two-day meeting of Caricom ministers of telecommunications to look primarily at plans to set up a telecommunications union. He said that given the present trends in the international community, the region needed to rethink its trade and industrial strategies.

Mitchell added that the Caribbean's orientation should be less inward and more international. He spoke out against the "strong tendency" within Caricom towards economic nationalism instead of economic regionalism. "Your present concerns of improving competitiveness, boosting physical exports, limiting imports and artificial enhancing creation activities collectively would have serious limitations in the long run," he said. "We are being played off by individual potential foreign investors, especially in both the tourism and manufacturing sectors," he added.

Mitchell claimed that these concerns were creating what he called mutually conflicting policies which were seriously reducing the economic potential of Caricom. "We can't have restrictions on intra-regional imports, restrictions on labour mobility, restrictions on ownership of assets by other Caricom nationals and have a resurgence of intra-regional trade," he remarked. "We ought to be outward looking, treating our resources as complimentary in our trust for international competiveness," he said.

Haiti

Government Issues Report on 29 Nov Massacre

FL1711184888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The major story of this newscast is the public disclosure of the report from the committee investigating the events of 29 November 1987 and the murder of Model,PRDH [Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti, Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti] leader Louis Eugene Athis and two of his companions in (Au Parc), a communal section of Leogane.

The report on the Athis murder, according to the investigating officer, indicates that the inhabitants of (?Chalatte) did not know Louis Eugene Athis; they had never seen him before, but had a grudge against Oscar Dongervil, whom they accused of being a communist.

Second, Oscar Dongervil, who was a member of Athis' party when Athis was in Santo Domingo, betrayed the trust and good faith of Athis and his companions by leading them to (Chalatte) [name as heard], Leogane—when he knew very well that the inhabitants wanted to (?kill him) and were calling him a communist.

Third, that it was incredibly naive of leader Louis Eugene Athis to agree to go to (Chalatte) without having prepared the residents for the visit and despite warnings from two peasants that anyone in the company of Oscar Dongervil might be killed.

Fourth, there was no premeditation in connection with Athis' death—the incident was, rather, a spontaneous reaction on the part of the peasants, who have, ever since the anticommunist campaign waged in the 1970's by the now deceased Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] General Breton Claude, exhibited a certain degree of aversion to the ideology which had already caused the death of a number of peasants.

The signer recommends that the justice minister be sent a photocopy of this report for his information.

The officer's report says: Basing our opinion on the above facts, and according to the questioning (?here attached), we believe it was naive of Oscar Dongervil not to take seriously the residents animosity regarding his initiatives and his way of conveying the party's message. This discontent turned into hostility and was exhibited against Oscar Dongervil long before Mr Louis Eugene Athis arrived in (Chalatte) on 2 August 1987. The rumor that Dongervil was to be killed during the 19 July 1987 meeting is proof of this. Postponing this meeting of 19 July for the same reason, and announcing another meeting over the radio for Sunday, 2 August 1987, in which the party president and certain other members were to participate, (?exacerbated) the mistrust of the peasants in the area. The report also says that no attempt was ever made to make the rural populations and certain city dwellers understand that our Constitution permits all ideological tendencies, and he who (?advocates) communism has the same rights as any other human being, even if his message and his ideology are rejected.

The report makes the following recommendations: The undersigned recommends the main perpetrators of the crime be taken to court and judged in conformity with Haitian penal laws. The principal men still sought are: Cajuste Alexis, (Havra Blanc), (Gustave Blanc (?Junior), (?and the men known only as) (Asefet), (Sylvain), and (Gilbert).

Second, a police outpost be set up in the (Au Parc) communal section to help the rural police agent supervise the area, provide more effective security, and stop the killings which now number 10. Two former section chiefs, (Dasson Philogene) and Stenio Jean-Jacques, have been killed there, as have civilians (Tonton Da), (Nerius Wilfrid Dumervil), and (Dieufort Duchanon).

Certain large and densely populated sections cannot be left under the supervision of a single police agent, whose age sometimes prevents him from visiting all the settlements [habitations], as recommended in the FADH regulations. Should there be a conflict, this single police agent becomes powerless.

Also, the rural populations must be better supported. This report is submitted to the commander of the department for his information and for any other useful purposes.

That, then, is the report on the death of Louis Eugene Athis signed by (Duvernat Konois), FADH officer.

Now to the other report, concerning the 29 November massacre. [passage omitted]

Regarding this, no official report on the incidents in Port-au-Prince during the week of 22-29 November was drawn up.

The police forces are held responsible for failing to establish a security cordon surrounding all the polling places and the places considered trouble spots because of the election climate.

The Ministry of Information and Coordination is also responsible for failing—despite access to the important government media—through appropriate civic education programs, to raise the population's level of education in order to avoid disturbing the public order and prevent the democratic process. [passage omitted]

Conclusion: There are many theses put forth concerning the occasion the election's annulment and the bloody Ruelle Vaillant incident. The most important and serious one claims that the events were were due to the action of: 1. Duvalierist/macoute forces
2. Macoute/Army forces
3. Leftist extremists
4. Army
5. Foreign powers

The first thesis, according to which it was Duvalierist-macoute forces that either carried out or ordered the acts acts of violence perpetrated against voters and the sabotaging of electoral materials and locales, stems from, on the one hand, the fact that the main Duvalierist leaders were shunted aside by the Provisional Electoral Council; and, on the other hand, from the results expected from the 29 November election—an election that to all appearances would have been won by the National Concerted Action Front candidates, perceived as an anti-Duvalierist and anti-macoute alternative.

Despite the fact that this was looked into with particular thoroughness, the facts gathered do not permit the identification of the individuals from among these groups who might have been responsible for perpetrating and masterminding these atrocities. Nevertheless, it is conceivable that macoutes and Duvalierists, collectively given no alternative but to struggle against banishment might have been the authors.

Decapitated, hunted down, persecuted, and burned alive after 7 February 1986, and in the face of the imminence of a resurgence of such acts following the results of last November's elections, out of a desire to survive, the macoutes were conceivably forced to defend themselves.

The thesis that macoute and Army forces worked together to commit these misdeeds can be explained by the fact that, on the one hand, according to a report from the news agency UPI, a State Department official who asked to remain anonymous reportedly pointed the finger at the Dessalines Barracks' command; and, on the other hand, (?by) the presence of brigades from the Dessalines Barracks that were at that time providing security in the streets of the capital, together with the police and the security services, [as heard] on the day of the canceled elections. According to this thesis, the Army and the macoutes acted together on that day.

Despite a meticulous investigation, the data collected does not permit one to establish that joint macoute and Army forces were involved in November's misdeeds. It is thus inappropriate to accuse the Army as a whole—despite the persistence of the CEP-CNG [Provisional Electoral Council-National Government Council] conflict—of the electoral violence for which only certain elements, which it has been difficult to identify, are allegedly responsible.

The thesis to the effect that leftist extremists participated in the disorders that resulted in the cancelling of the elections seems to be based on the fact that they are reputed to be resolutely against elections. This thesis seems (?to be founded) on the calls to boycott the elections by the groups making up the People's National Assembly, APN—about whose means for making the boycott concrete not much is known.

Despite the attractiveness of this thesis, it does not hold up under examination, especially since the electoral alternative would (?have been) favorable to them (?in the runoff). However, this would not exclude the possibility of their participation (?at some level) in the disorders that occurred, since elections were indeed made impossible.

The thesis that foreign powers were involved to some extent in these atrocities (?reportedly stems) from the prolific and close relations between—according to certain intelligence sources—the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, or CIA, agents and the CEP. The (?main basis) for this thesis is (?as much) the fact that the members of the CEP had allied themselves with the members of foreign embassies accredited in Haiti and had gotten in the habit of driving around in their vehicles.

In this imbroglio it is extremely difficult to identify the authors, the individual actors, considering the lack and the inadequacy of elements and indications (?obtained) during the different (?questioning sessions).

Despite the rumors regarding, and the accusations made against certain individuals, the committee was unable to, in an affair this serious, designate the true authors, since the statements obtained do not provide sufficient elements to make an evaluation.

In view of witnesses' failure to appear—the members of the CEP, for example—and also in view of the reticence of the victims questioned, (?who were obviously afraid) to tell the truth, in anticipation of possible reprisals, it was difficult to identify the authors and the basic elements of the infringements (?discussed).

According to this report, despite the fact that the media named the perpetrators by name, it was not possible—even after (?viewing) the film of the massacre tha occurred on Ruelle Vaillant—to spot them. In the opinion of experts in cinematography, this film is, they say, a series of scattered scenes of the monstrous acts that occurred on Ruelle Vaillant.

In the last analysis, since the investigating committee was not able to identify the perpetrators, co-perpetrators, and masterminds of these acts individually, it identifies them collectively so that the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor, the (?defender) of the society in charge of seeking out (?felonies, misdemeanors, and infringements) of the law, can set public action in motion within the time limit prescribed in the penal code and punish the guilty parties from the sectors identified, in conformity with Haitian law. [passage omitted]

Electoral Council Formation in 'Few Weeks'

FL1711115388 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Serge Elie Charles says his government hopes to set up an electoral council within a few weeks. Speaking to newsmen at the OAS [meeting being held in San Salvador], Mr Charles said the military government has already drafted a decree for establishing the electoral council.

'March of Liberation' Announced for 29 Nov

FL1711195088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The Christian Democratic Assembly, RDC, headed by Eddy Volel, brother of [murdered] lawyer Yves Volel, has issued a press release announcing that on 29 November, the 1st anniversary of the massacre that took place on Ruelle Vaillant, a march of liberation will be held.

The RDC says the march will begin at St. Jean Bosco Church and end at the Ruelle Vaillant. The marchers will go via Bel-Air, Rue des Fronts Forts, and Lalue.

The march is a way of protesting the use of brute force against an unarmed people seeking democracy and a better life. The march is also being held: to demand the release of the patriotic soldiers of the 17 September movement who are in prison and whom the RDC considers political prisoners; and to ask that the cleanup of Haiti—started by the Haitian people and the soldiers—continue.

The march is also to protest the macoutes, detectives [attaches], and section chiefs abusing the population; their resignations are sought. Also, sought is an official statement from the Episcopal Conference about Father Jean Bertrand Aristide deportation; and the marchers want workers who have been fired arbitrarily to be rehired and rights guaranteed.

As we said, this march will be in memorial to all those who died in the Ruelle Vaillant and other massacres in Haiti. That was a press release from the RDC, Christian Democratic Assembly.

Police, Army Personnel Changes Noted

FL1711004188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1400 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We have learned that there have been some changes at the Investigation and Anti-Gang Service [formerly the Criminal Investigations Department of the Port-au-Prince Police].

(Coulanges Justafort) has been sent to the Army General Headquarters to be the duty officer there. He has been replaced by Major (Eugene Jose).

We have also learned that Colonel Roland Medor has been appointed commander of the military department of the west, replacing Colonel Carl Dorsainville, who is now minister of interior.

New Officer at Saint-Marc

FL1511155488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Report by correspondent Rodrigue F. Sejour from the lower Artibonite Valley]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The military district of Saint-Marc once again has a new commanding officer: Captain (Joseph Miracle Ira). This is the third commanding officer appointed to head this district from 17 September to the present.

Soleil Airs Letter of Imprisoned 'Detectives'

FL1711165688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Five of the men arrested on Delmas 19 on 30 September 1988 have written a letter in which they deny the accusations against them. These men, currently imprisoned at the National Penitentiary, state that the soldiers of the Presidential Guard arrested them during the night on the pretext of being detectives. The soldiers were not accompanied by a justice of the peace.

The men say that they were shocked when the Ministry of Interior ordered all detectives to return their weapons, and that deadline for turning in the weapons was not yet up.

The five men admit that they were Dessalines Barracks detectives; and they call everyone's attention to the fact that their arrest was on that same day Colonel Jean-Claude Paul was retired.

The men say they were taken to the National Palace, but not interrogated. Then they were taken to the National Penitentiary; and on 4 October were taken to the police. They were asked no questions whatsoever. They have been locked up in the National Penitentiary ever since.

The men say that after 22 days, one of the prisoners was released—a man who was a macoute at the National Palace. They also admit that Arnold Theodore, a Teleco [Telecommunications d'Haiti] employee was never a detective.

Finally, the men insist they never participated in the 29 November massacre which certain sectors want the people to believe. In fact, several said they had candidates for whom they wanted to vote in that election.

The five men ask why the police did not arrest the people who appeared on RTNH-TV on the eve of the 29 November elections to warn of violence and bloodshed.

Incident Between Leopards Corpsmen, Police
FL1711164388 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpts] There was an incident between members of the Port-au-Prince Police and Leopards [Army elite corp] corpsmen at the Nazon intersection last weekend. Here is Marcus Plaisimond's report.

[Plaisimond] The strike unleashed last Saturday by the tap-tap [public transportation vehicles] on the Ruelle Nazon Airport Road run following the arrest of two tap-tap drivers could have had tragic consequences. Last Saturday, shortly after 1000, an argument broke out between a traffic policeman and a tap-tap driver at the corner of Rue Nazon [name as heard] and Delmas Road. [passage omitted] Another driver got involved in the argument, in support of his colleague. The policeman lost his temper, shattered the vehicle's right window, and arrested both drivers. The news spread, and the drivers committee for the area decided to go on strike in protest—and to prevent other public transportation vehicles from passing.

At around 1500, the same policeman returned to the scene and dared the strikers to prevent any other public transportation vehicles from passing. Tension increased. The policeman moved away and then returned, just as two other policemen arrived on a motorcycle. Without any warning, they collared a driver who was sitting in his car parked at the Texaco service station.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] They pulled the driver out of the car, and the only thing they didn't do to him is what they forgot to do to him! They beat him so badly that when he was able to get away he ran off to call another policeman, No (?202). [passage omitted] This is the first time I saw such a thing—traffic cops beating people like that, you know? [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Tell us about the Leopard, now.

[Speaker] The Leopard (?got out) [words indistinct] beating the driver [words indistinct] (?give him) a break. They turned on the Leopard and beat him too. They [passage indistinct]. They hurt him, arrested him and forced him to get into a taxi.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Speaker] No, it was not he who disarmed them. While they were beating [passage indistinct]. Now, this Leopard was accompanied by another Leopard. [passage omitted including indistinct portion] The other Leopard ran off. I don't know where he went. The other one ran off, but as for the one they beat and wounded and so forth, they forced him into a taxi and carted him off. [end recording]

The two drivers arrested Saturday morning were released that same evening. However, the Leopards came back on Sunday morning.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] They showed up, asking if the policemen were there. We said we didn't know. While they [words indistinct] they went into that (?bar) over there and asked. The bar's owner said he had not seen the policemen. Two (?policemen) were passing by. One was in a public transportation vehicle. The other seemed to have just picked something up from the cleaners. The Leopards stopped the tap-tap and made the policeman in the vehicle get out. When he got out, they said: Hands up! He raised his hands. They told him to hand over the weapon, the 38. He said no. They insisted. He continued to refuse.

Meanwhile, the other three men, the ones in the military uniforms, surrounded him. He still refused to hand over the weapon. They shoved him. As they shoved him, two others appeared. They too shoved him and took his weapon. As for the sergeant, he was passing by, carrying the garment from the dry cleaners. [passage omitted] They got him behind the head, and he relinquished his weapon. They they shoved him around a little. Then they got in a vehicle and left. [passage omitted] [end recording]

This incident, which fortunately left few victims—most of them members of the Armed Forces—could have had very serious consequences for the striking drivers, if it hadn't been for the intervention of this Leopard, who was severely manhandled by the policemen. [passage omitted]

Do the laws regulating automobile traffic in Haiti authorize a traffic policeman to collar a driver? Even if there has indeed been a violation? This is what observers are wondering.

Government Newspaper Employees Stop Work

FL1711182088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The employees and journalists—in fact, all the personnel—of the government newspaper L'UNION stopped work yesterday in solidarity with their editor in chief, who handed in his resignation, and also to demand their October checks. According to a journalist we interviewed, this crisis has been going on since General Namphy fell from power on 17 September 1988. There have been several calls for a thorough restructuring of this newspaper.

(?The employees) are also asking that a group of people who do nothing and who have been wandering around among the employees for the past few weeks be fired. This was one of the reasons that (Willem Romeus), the paper's former director, resigned. He resigned because of all these problems.

According to a L'UNION journalist, there were negotiations with the Ministry of Information, but nothing came of these negotiations. Several members of L'UNION's personnel told us what their demands were. Let's listen to them.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] newspaper. The Ministry of Information should be responsible for it. I don't suppose we should be having to go to the Ministry of Public Works to take care of the newspaper's business! Of course it is the minister of information we must see! We worked Thursday evening because Carl Labossiere, the editor in chief, asked us to, as a favor to him. Had it not been for that, we would not have worked.

[Reporter] Do you, as a government medium, receive the same treatment as the other government media, such as RTNH.

[Several speakers intermingled] Ah, no! There is no similarity. We at the newspaper L'UNION are of good faith. We actually do more than what we ought to be doing, just to get the paper out. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] In connection with constraints, what kind of problems do you encounter here?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, for example, today is the 14th. We have not yet been paid for the month of October. And I am an employee with responsibilities. Secondly, I must tell you people around here don't even have feet to walk with!

[Second unidentified speaker] We have no machines, we have nothing. [passage omitted]

[Third unidentified speaker] Let me answer that question. Ever since Namphy was in power, after the St. Jean Bosco incident there was a macoute who said that this newspaper had to be shut down because they had expected the newspaper to serve their government in a certain way because I had written an article they found horrible and hateful, and because we had not approved of what was done at St. Jean Bosco—they said L'UNION had to be shut down.

I don't know how we were so lucky, but the government fell, and that is why the paper didn't close. [passage omitted] We know we do our work properly. The people you see standing here this morning are the journalists who put out the paper, the technicians, the people who sweat to get the paper out. [passage omitted]

Regarding restructuring, we ask the government in power, (?to, as) a responsible government, clean up—remove the sinecurists from the paper for us. Remove the employees who appear at the end of every month to demand their $1,200-2,000 checks. We also ask that they remove the employees who are not in harmony with the base—that is, there are a few technicians who claim they are being exploited.

We also ask that the paper be restructured on a more just basis. That is, it is the men who do the work who should be paid well. We also ask—(?of course this is one of) the internal demands—that the newspaper be supplied with material so that it can go to press in a normal fashion. [end recording]

Teachers Hold Press Conference on Problems

FL1711223688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The Port-au-Prince Teachers Association [AEP] held a press conference yesterday on a number of problems encountered by teachers in doing their work. [passage omitted]

During this press conference, the AEP also protested a number of heavy-handed actions being taken these days against workers, for example, the Army shows up when workers demand their rights. The AEP asks: If the teachers, who have not yet been paid for the month of October, were to go on strike, would the soldiers come to the schools to stomp them too?

The AEP feels that the government must take a clear position in keeping with the law (?on this matter); and also say they are in solidarity with all workers who are struggling.

Ministry Calls on Plant To Rehire Workers

FL1711232288 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Ministry of Social Affairs has conducted an investigation into the conflict at the Comme Il Faut tobacco company. The ministry has asked plant authorities to take back the workers who had been fired.

In a press release dated 16 November, the Social Affairs Ministry informs the employers and workers of Comme Il Faut and the general public that, following a conflict between the company and the workers and after 15 workers were fired, the ministry conducted an investigation into the matter on 7 November. [passage omitted]

The ministry says that after analyzing the data from the investigation, the company's version of the story was found to be unfounded. Thus, the Ministry of Social Affairs asks the plant authorities to take back the fired workers. If the plant refuses, the case will be sent before the special labor court for the necessary followup.

Dominican Caught Recruiting Haitians Secretly

FL1711004088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The military in Cavaillon has caught a Dominican who was clandestinely recruiting Haitians to cut sugarcane in the Dominican Republic. He was arrested with 11 Haitians whom he had had time to buy. [passage omitted]

[Begin correspondent's report] Lieutenant (Atilio Joseph Raphael), who is stationed in Cavaillon, on Monday, 4 November at around 1500, caught 11 Haitians who were going to leave Haiti clandestinely to cut cane in the Dominican Republic in (Martineau), second communal section of Cavaillon. The men were arrested at the home of a Dominican named (Alfonsio Estimosa del Fonzio), who has been living in the area for a good while now.

According to the men arrested, the Dominican had made arrangements to send them to Santo Domingo, and was going to give them a piece of paper for when they arrived. They said this was not the first time this Dominican arranged such trips with people in the area.

Both the Haitians and the Dominican are currently in jail, at the barracks in Aquin, awaiting legal proceedings. [passage omitted]

Airport Employees Declare Work Stoppage

FL1611211888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The immigration department employees at Mais Gate Airport are going to stop work today, this morning, on the occasion of the funeral of inspector Louis-Marie Bonnet, who fell victim to the current insecurity last 10 November.

Some 20 members of this department are demanding that an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Mr Bonnet's death be opened. They ask that the murderers be arrested and prosecuted.

There have been several people from the 52d Company arrested in connection with the investigation the military is conducting.

Nationwide General Strike Called for 21 Nov

FL1611191088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] During a press conference yesterday, the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, CATH, whose headquarters is on Rue des Casernes, together with the Haitian Workers Committee and the Association of Families and Friends of Patriotic Soldiers, called for a general strike.

They are asking for, among other things, satisfaction in connection with employers mistreating workers in factories here in Haiti—such as at Acierie d'Haiti, Comme Il Faut, and several other factories here in Haiti.

They are also asking for the Catholic Church hierarchy to make some kind of comment on the Father Jean Bertrand Aristide affair. They are also asking for the military government to see what it can do to lower the high cost of living in Haiti, so that the poor can live a little better.

They also ask for the association of distributors of petroleum products to see if they can lower the price of gasoline, so as to lower the cost of living a little.

Thus, these organizations have called for a general strike for next Monday [21 November] if all these demands are not satisfied. The strike will be a 24-hour warning strike to the military government headed by Lieutenant General Prosper Avril. Let's listen to a report on this:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The representatives of four mass organizations—CATH, which is the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers; the Association of Families and Friends of Patriotic Soldiers; the People's National Assembly; and the Haitian Workers Committee—held a press conference on Tuesday, 15 November, at the headquarters of the drivers' union, on Rue des Miracles. The purpose of the press conference was to discuss the political situation in Haiti and what they had decided to do in the coming days.

CATH Executive Secretary Jean Auguste Mesyeux said: The situation of the Haitian masses has deteriorated still further since 17 September. Patriotic soldiers have been arrested. The soldiers' demands have not been satisfied. Franck Romain has not been brought to trial, and there has been no improvement in Haiti's economic situation.

Mesyeux continued: The employer at Acierie d'Haiti has fired more than 58 workers, and nothing has ever been said about this. For this reason, other industries are continuing to do the same thing.

Also, Mesyeux said that despite the demonstrations the Haitian masses held to say no to the Catholic Church's hierarchy's decision to deport Father Jean Bertrand Aristide, to this day the church bigshots have not made any statement regarding this situation.

For all these reasons, they have decided to call for a general strike for next Monday, 21 November. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Trinidad and Tobago

New Labor-Based Party Scheduled for 1989

FL1511221088 Bridgetown CANA in English 2303 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] San Fernando, South Trinidad, Nov 12, CANA—The trade union-based Committee for Labour Solidarity (CLS) on Saturday announced plans to launch a new political party before April 1989.

CLS presented its plans for what it called peoples' participation and peoples' politics predicting that its attempts to form a party now would be painted with the communist brush. The group, whose leading members are trade union chiefs Errol Mcleod, David Abdullah, Cecil Paul, Raffique Shaw, and Lawyer Allan Alexander, said it planned 8 months of dialogue before presenting a plan from "the people".

The CLS plans to hold a congress before April 30, 1989 at which each group in the country will be invited to send delegates to discuss a final programme. "Let them print that red too and they will paint the whole damned country red," Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) president general, Mcleod told the 700 delegates at the conference. The meeting was held at the OWTU's Paramount building San Fernando headquarters.

The group put forward what it called a draft programme of the new party entitled "towards a new democracy and the road to full employment."

The 31-page plan suggests the need for a new economic policy which accepts a mixed economy including state control of the country's natural resources, and support for small and medium term business. The seven-point emergency plan suggests price control for basic food items, payment of outstanding backpay and severance pay for workers, the revision of the industrial relations act, and passage of antimonopoly, occupational health and safety environmental laws. "The new party is advocating a planning process where the people - through the workers' councils at the workplace and the peoples' and district councils at the community level - can be directly involved in all the steps of planning," the programme said. The plan said that in these new "institutions of democracy", the people would be motivated towards achieving their own goals. "The people would be working in their own interests and for what they desire rather than everything being dictated from the top as now applies," the programme said.

The various speakers at the platform knocked the track record of previous political parties stating that they had treated the people with contempt. With people no longer invited to take part in the running of the society, Mcleod said, nationals felt like helpless pawns - something which explains the mass migration the country was now facing. Instead of leaving, Mcleod said, it was time for patriotic citizens to stay and form the sort of party they wanted. Mcleod warned that the other political parties in the country would not be able to label them with corruption, being racial or anti democratic and so would use the "red scare". "The CLS is ready to take them on on this communist foolishness," Mcleod said.

Chinese Trade Mission on Week-Long Visit

FL1511145988 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] A trade mission from China is in Trinidad and Tobago for a week-long visit. The seven-member mission is investigating investment opportunities in the garment, textile, and electronic industry. The Chinese mission leaves at the end of the week for Mexico.

Foreign Secretary Assesses Relations With U.S.
PA1611150588 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Nov 88 pp 1, 9-A

[Report by Fausto Marquez]

[Excerpts] Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor yesterday demanded an end to the U.S. usage of pressure, unilateral steps, and statements that distort the reality of Mexican-U.S. relations. Sepulveda also encouraged Mexico to go beyond the strategies used so far to solve the foreign debt problem because it has become the main obstacle to Latin American development. In addition, Sepulveda called for defending sovereignty, security, and development.

During his appearance before the Senate, Sepulveda said defending nonintervention, the peoples' right to self-determination, the legal equality of states, and the struggle for peace is essential in preserving sovereignty and the country's independence. Sepulveda stressed that inaction, isolation, and making concessions have no place in Mexican diplomacy.

Sepulveda added the drug trafficking problem requires more cooperation, full respect for sovereignty, an end to the use of political pressure—which is always unacceptable—and the recognition of responsibilities by each of the parties involved. [passage omitted]

During his initial statements, the Mexican foreign secretary said dialogue, cooperation, mutual respect, and fairness must characterize our relations with the United States. Sepulveda stated: "We have defended national interests without hesitation as our right and duty."

Sepulveda added that the Mexican position must not be seen as unfriendly and hostile. He said it is necessary to understand that diplomatic disagreements are the expression of various political and social realities and must be respected as part of the inevitable differences of opinion in international relations.

Discussing drug trafficking, Sepulveda said Mexico has made major and resolute efforts to fight that crime, but he added as long as the "strong demand from the U.S. market exists, it will be very difficult to destroy the criminal chain."

Concerning Mexican-U.S. relations, Sepulveda said there have been many difficult moments and misunderstandings. Sepulveda stressed: "We never avoided dialogue or gave in when national interests were at stake. We struggled for a respectful, fair relationship based on understanding." [passage omitted]

Journalist on Salinas Visit to Southern Border
PA1611175088 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Nov 88 pp 1-A, 28-A

[From the "Time and World" column by Djuka Julius: "Counterweights"]

[Excerpts] Belize, 13 November—There is a long-term geopolitical purpose behind President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari's visit to Guatemala and Belize. This visit represents the continuation of Mexico's efforts to actively contribute toward establishing a new balance in Mexico's southern border area.

Salinas interpreted and clearly presented Mexico's desire and willingness to support a strong, independent, democratic, and prosperous Guatemala and an integrated, independent, democratic, and happy Belize. Mexico hopes these two countries will work with it and become stable countries in the region. Only then will Mexico's borders with these neighbors in Central America and the Caribbean become stable and peaceful. [passage omitted]

The Central American and Caribbean nations, which want to strengthen their independence and sovereignty as part of a Latin American historical emancipation process, naturally look to Mexico and seek ways to lean on this nation to protect their interests. These interests, which coincide with Mexico's, are geared towards ending all attempts at foreign domination and achieving a stable peace based on equal rights, self-determination, independence, democracy, nonintervention, and cooperation.

This is why Mexico, during Miguel de la Madrid's 6-year term, has made so great an effort for a negotiated, realistic solution to the Central American conflict. This is also why Mexico's relations with Guatemala, Belize, and other Central American nations have improved so markedly. These nations should understand they have a natural ally in Mexico, which, while struggling for its own interests, also struggles for the Central American nations' interests.

Salinas, on selecting Guatemala and Belize for his first visits abroad, even before assuming office as president, has underlined this Mexican stance in Central America and the Caribbean and his determination to strengthen Latin America's political accord and economic integration. This accord and integration constitute an essential instrument for the Latin American countries'emancipation. In Guatemala and Belize, Salinas was welcomed as the highest representative and as the person to be in charge of a Mexican foreign policy that has become, in the past few years, an important and effective damping force against every possible ambition and policy of hegemony and domination in Central America and the Caribbean. In addition, Mexico has become a genuine sponsor of the aspirations and interests for independence, peace, democracy and development, cooperation, and coexistence in

Central America and the Caribbean. These factors should become the essential elements of a new geopolitical balance in the region. [passage omitted]

Costa Rica

Official Announces New Refugee Policy

PA1811001288 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1839 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Luis Alberto Cordero, deputy minister of the Presidency, made serious accusations this morning against the international community and announced new policies on refugee and other programs being carried out by the Costa Rican Government. Cordero was opening a seminar on the refugee problem in Costa Rica.

Rodrigo Arias sent a message to the participants, noting his concern that international organizations are neglecting to send aid to the thousands of refugees in our territory and the fact that more and more refugees are arriving daily.

Luis Alberto Cordero said aid has decreased while more refugees have arrived, which causes additional sacrifice on the part of Costa Ricans—who are already doing all they can to care for the refugees in keeping with their national tradition. He also referred to reports about the imminent arrival of thousands of Nicaraguans fleeing from the political situation in their country and from their economic situation, which was made critical by Hurricane Joan.

The deputy minister said the mass immigration to our country is being encouraged by the Nicaraguan Government, and has apparently been approved by international organizations—including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, whose passive attitude is allowing this.

Consequently, Deputy Minister Cordero revealed the measures approved by the Government Council and the Immigration and Aliens Council to control the situation:

[Begin Cordero recording] We calculate the flow of immigrants to Costa Rica will continue in 1989, not only because of the armed conflicts but also because of the prevailing social and economic conditions in their native countries. Those conditions have deteriorated markedly, resulting in a greater flow of immigrants, who are part of what we have classified—if it is not too technical a term—economic immigration.

In view of this, the government has decided not to allow the arrival of any person into Costa Rican territory whose circumstances do not satisfy the Geneva Accords and protocol on refugee status. This includes the appropriate application of the Cartagena Agreement's terms, meaning the government will not allow—as far as it is able to prevent—the arrival of any person under the status of economic immigrant, effective immediately.

Therefore, the Immigration and Aliens Council held a meeting, which I have already mentioned, and has issued instructions to the General Directorate of Immigration and Aliens. I suppose that [words indistinct] reviewed during this seminar. [end recording]

Government Creates Antidrug Intelligence Center

PA1711145288 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Summary] The Joint Antidrug Intelligence Center (CICAD) was created by a provision included in Costa Rica's regular budget for 1989. CICAD is made up of the ministers and deputy ministers of government and public security and the heads of the directorates in charge of drug interdiction activities.

CICAD will come under the control of the Government Ministry and the police, and its main duties will be to fight drug trafficking and drug addiction of all kinds. To this end, CICAD will coordinate operations with the Public Security Ministry's National Directorate for Drug Control; the Government Ministry's Directorate of Intelligence, Drugs, and Investigations; and the Directorate of Intelligence and National Security.

CICAD must submit its budget to the General Comptroller's Office for approval, and its operations will be financed by budget allocations and by national and international donations. Costa Rica's ordinary budget for 1989 allocates 50 million colones for CICAD operations.

CICAD will be exempt from complying with a number of administrative, labor, and budgetary laws.

El Salvador

FMLN Announces End to Truce, Warns Civilians

PA1811034188 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Attention, attention, brother fighters, Salvadoran people, and national media: We are issuing an alert to the entire civilian population, drivers, medical service organizations, and humanitarian organizations. Pay attention to the following instructions:

Upon conclusion of the truce decreed by the FMLN General Command, our guerrilla units throughout the country will intensify their political-military offensive which began in September with the "Death to Reagan's Policy; Yankees Get Out of El Salvador" campaign. The fighting will increase throughout our national territory, particularly on the highways, in the cities, capital, and Army barracks and garrisons.

In an effort to minimize as much as possible for the civilian population the consequences of our armed actions, the FMLN—which acts responsibly in its political-military activities—urges everyone to follow these instructions:

1. The civilian population and news media personnel must never board Air Force helicopters or any other aircraft, regardless of the circumstances.

2. The civilian population must abstain from boarding military vehicles, both in the countryside and in the cities.

3. Civilian vehicles must keep a minimum distance of 50 meters from military vehicles and convoys along the highways to avoid falling into our ambushes.

4. The civilian population must avoid living in houses located within an area of 50 meters around Armed Forces barracks and garrisons.

5. The population must not come near any gathering of military troops in the countryside and the cities because the latter may be attacked at any minute and in any place.

6. Civilians must not serve as guides for the Armed Forces' patrols in rural areas, regardless of the circumstances.

7. Civilians living in conflict-ridden zones must heed the instructions issued by the FMLN's local leaders during the Armed Forces' operations.

8. Drivers must not carry military personnel in civilian vehicles.

9. Vehicles of the news media and humanitarian organizations should circulate with signs that clearly identify them whenever a demonstration is under way. These vehicles must travel at low speeds and heed the FMLN's instructions at all times.

We urge the civilian population to follow these instructions.

The truce decreed by the FMLN General Command to create a favorable atmosphere for the OAS General Assembly concludes at 1800 on 18 November [0000 GMT 19 November]. However, the counterinsurgent dictatorship led by Duarte and the Army High Command were not capable of corresponding with a similar gesture. Instead, they have continued with their repression, arrests, murders, bombings, and strafings.

Following the OAS assembly, the dictatorship will be weakened and beaten by the people's fighting in the streets. The dictatorship will be unmasked by the people's just demands to stop its repression and by the demands for a solution with justice and dignity for the Salvadoran people.

Following the OAS assembly, the dictatorship will be politically [words indistinct] by Latin American countries, which see in Duarte the representative of a submissive and criminal government.

Following the OAS assembly, and once the FMLN's truce concludes, our weapons will be firmly lifted to oust the dictatorship. The armed struggle is the only way to counter the stubborn attitude of Duarte, the military high command, the U.S. Embassy, and the right-wing parties. The armed struggle is the only way to attain a political solution. Now is the time for all the people to rebel in the streets, neighborhoods, farms, factories, and schools. This will force the dictatorship and the rich exploiters to give in to the people's just demands. The people's armed rebellion will achieve a new government that gives bread, democracy, justice, and liberty to the people.

Paper Criticizes Shultz' Speech to OAS

PA1711162688 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 16 Nov 88 p 7

[Editorial: "The Soviets Are Not Managua's Only Supporter"]

[Text] It is said pessimists are optimists who are better informed. If not better informed, we would add, at least aware of events and capable of making a connection between cause and effect.

Secretary of State George Shultz' speech to the OAS is discouraging not so much because of what he said but because of what he did not say. In addition, his proposal for a policy of "aggressive defense" of democracy by the democracies raises new and serious questions about the hemisphere's future.

Shultz spoke very little about Nicaragua, limiting himself to citing the Sandinists' nonfulfillment of the promise they made to the OAS and indicating that Nicaragua continues to be a threat to its neighbors "due to the size of its Army and the military support it continues to receive from the Soviet Union." He forgot to add the decisive political support Managua receives from Jim Wright, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the support provided by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias with his grandiose idea of the Esquipulas plan.

Of course, no one can be against democracy, but it would be wise to ask whether an "aggressive" stand against autocracies (because it is never really against totalitarianism) would better help the interests of the peoples under such rule than a more pragmatic and cautious course. After seeing the dreadful misery, oppression, and deaths that the "human rights" policy caused here in the heart of America and in the Persian Gulf, the wise thing would be to proceed very cautiously before throwing stones at your neighbor.

In this century of semantic traps, one must also redefine the concept of "democracy." This is because, seen from a narrow aspect, without taking into account other facets, the cure might be worse than the disease. This was the case in Rhodesia, whose citizens were granted the one man, one vote concept—but just once.

Lining up the Guaranis, the Aztecs, the Incas, or the Pipiles [Latin American Indians] in front of ballot boxes after they were subjected to domestic and external agitation and confusion could bring that disappointment a citizen feels when his vote elects a thief and the citizen goes from poverty to misery. Most of the time, those who are elected feel that when they receive the vote of a majority, they are receiving a license to do whatever they please.

* ARENA Candidate Comments on Economy, Jobs

32480021A San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 3 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] The Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) has sent us the following news bulletin:

"One of the most important aspects of ARENA's platform is the eradication of dire poverty," stated Alfredo Cristiani, presidential candidate for the Nationalist Republican Alliance.

"There is no doubt that the Christian Democratic administration has plunged the people into the worst living conditions of our entire history. Among the factors that have contributed the most to the aggravation of social conditions for the vast majority of Salvadorans are unemployment, the high cost of living, the shortage of basic necessities, the lack of housing, appalling health services, and educational disorder.

"More than a million Salvadorans are out of work," emphasized Mr Cristiani, "and of the population that is employed, only 400 people have formal, permanent jobs. It will be necessary, therefore, to create more than 2 million new productive jobs to absorb both the unemployed and the new generations that join the labor force.

"The principal cause of the accelerated increase in unemployment has been the false political program promoted by the Christian Democrats, first with the so-called 'structural reforms' imposed in 1980, and then with the 'economic packages' introduced in 1984 and subsequent years.

"This means that more than 700,000 additional jobs have been lost by the Christian Democrats since 1980, when it tried to seize power de facto.

"This situation of critical poverty and indigence is inhuman and anti-Christian, said the ARENA presidential candidate. ARENA is the majority opposition party.

"In the social sphere, my platform gives top priority to solving the problems of unemployment, housing, the high cost of living, and government services," concluded Alfredo Cristiani. San Salvador, 1 October 1988.

Cristiani Criticizes Dialogue Process

PA1711013988 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Report by Ernesto Rivas; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Rivas] Alfredo Cristiani, the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] presidential candidate, said today that dialogue is needed to achieve peace in our country. However, he clarified that this dialogue does not necessarily have to be with the FMLN, but with legally established democratic groups—not groups outside the law. This is why, he added, we disagree with the government-guerrilla dialogue that President Duarte has promoted.

[Cristiani] "We believe the violence we are experiencing is very complex. We must tackle and find solutions to all those problems that are generating violence.

"The FMLN is just another group; it does not represent a majority of the people. It is a small undemocratic Marxist group trying to achieve power through violent means. This is why in the past we criticized the dialogue promoted by Duarte, because he has advocated an isolated kind of dialogue, a bilateral dialogue with the FDR-FMLN. We believe peace requires a more general effort."

[Rivas] Cristiani added that on certain occasions, the Armed Forces have been subordinated to politics, although the Constitution mandates that they maintain integrity and order in the nation, which has been violated on certain occasions.

[Cristiani] "We believe the Armed Forces is an institution that exists by virtue of our Constitution. For us, our Constitution is nonnegotiable. In the past, the Armed Forces' efforts to enforce law and order have frequently been subordinated to strictly political arguments.

"In our opinion, this has extended the conflict. What am I referring to? What was the reasoning behind granting an amnesty and a unilateral cease-fire? That amnesty only set free approximately 400 guerrillas, who immediately returned to the mountains to continue generating death and destruction. What was achieved? Absolutely nothing more than to demoralize the Armed Forces, which managed to capture those criminals and jail them while endangering the lives of its troops, only to see those criminals released. Those troops are then expected to risk their lives day after day."

[Rivas] For his part, Francisco Merino, Cristiani's vice presidential partner in the presidential elections, rejected claims that Electoral Code amendments are aimed at benefiting his party and promote electoral fraud.

Quite the contrary, he replied, the objective is to encourage multilateral actions and collective decisions within the Central Electoral Council to benefit all political parties, not just the ruling party.

Meanwhile, Cristiani said he is pleased to see the involvement of the Democratic Convergence. However, he expressed doubts about the sincerity of its involvement, because it has not yet rejected the FMLN's murder of mayors. The Democratic Convergence has not yet disassociated itself from the FMLN, Cristiani added.

FMLN Commander Villalobos Issues Statement

PA1511122788 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Report on statement by Commander Joaquin Villalobos, member of the FMLN General Command; date and place not given—recorded portions within quotation marks]

[Text] [Villalobos] "First, I would like to send a greeting to all fighters in different regions and expansion zones, who are executing various combat tasks. Before moving on to the interview, I would very much like to send a special greeting to the comrades at the Morazan command post and at Radio Venceremos, with whom I have worked on production, monitoring, and communications. Second, it may be important to explain to my fellow fighters and all our members the reasons for the general command's international tour. The first thing I should say is that this activity and the achievements we have made in the political field have been made possible by the efforts of the Salvadoran people and fighters, who are fulfilling their missions every day. These efforts have given us victories, strength, and revolutionary progress, and they have resulted in the acknowledgement of our organization and our struggle.

Throughout our tour we found solidarity toward our people and admiration for FMLN fighters and for the heroism and ability we have displayed in the past 8 years against U.S. power, which has supported the Salvadoran Army. We found this expression of solidarity among the people and we also found recognition for our efforts in political circles ideologically different from ours; although they disagreed with some of our views on the situation and its prospects, they acknowledged that our people have made a great effort by seeking and winning self-determination in response to the Reagan administration's policies. Our people's actions have been admirable and laudable, and they have made political communication possible.

The successes we have attained in our political struggle, including these tours, are primarily the result of a joint combative effort of our fighters and the people in general, who wage their battles in the streets."

"The purpose of the tour was to inform people about how we view the situation and to contribute to the adoption of initiatives by governments, political forces, and the people of the continent in view of the fact that our people are going through an important stage, a stage when our struggle has no alternative but to expand and intensify. Our people are radicalizing the struggle and raising their combat spirit.

There is a danger that the Reagan administration may intensify the war and that repression may increase. For this reason, the recognition we may gain is of the greatest importance to our people's struggle; we can wave the banners of peace and the political solution to demonstrate that it is the people's forces who want peace, not the other side.

This was one of the objectives of our tour."

[Reporter] In past broadcasts, we released an FMLN communique decreeing a truce for the duration of the OAS General Assembly meeting in San Salvador. Commander Villalobos will now comment on it.

[Villalobos] "Regarding the truce, our fighters know we have decreed such truces in the past. They demonstrate our position in favor of peace, our political position, discipline, and our flexibility. The truce is a product of this flexibility. We say the truce is a political element, an attacking move—not defensive or imposed, but a politically attacking action. The reaction of the Armed Forces will not be met with a corresponding response. This will demonstrate to the international community and various governments participating in the OAS meeting who it is that wants peace and talks, who makes its own decisions and is autonomous, and who is a puppet force. The puppet force and has no freedom of action when faced with an event such as the OAS assembly meeting. It will take place with the delegates all but confined to their quarters, and in a capital that has been militarized to create a climate of terror, and not through fear of military actions [words indistinct] to present their demands to the international community, to call for a condemnation of human rights violations in El Salvador, so the Army has militarized the capital to intimidate the population. The truce is an important political measure that exposes the farce put on by Duarte and the Christian Democratic Party. The truce reveals the warmongering nature of their plan, a plan devised by people who lack the ability to negotiate and find political solutions."

[Reporter] Commander Villalobos concludes his statement by sending a message to the Salvadoran people, urging them to maintain and increase the struggle.

[Villalobos] "Perhaps we should intensify the struggle, which is at a crucial stage. As we have said on many occasions throughout our tour: Whatever space is open and whatever space we can conquer, we will fill, struggling. Some years ago, our war was of a strictly military nature and our people were terrified by the many killings. Now the situation is different and our people are on the streets again; many more are joining the struggle. The

regime's policies and repression have generated contingents of new fighters. This makes our effort even more essential and allows us to make international efforts that are an important complement to the offensive we are carrying out in all fields.

"We call on the people and fighters to intensify all forms of struggle and to increase their offensive capabilities. The vanguard, the FMLN, will always be at the side of the people to turn their efforts into victory."

FMLN Reports on Military Actions, Casualties

10-11 Nov Actions

PA1411130388 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 13 November carries reports from its various military fronts on the latest rebel actions.

The first report, from the Feliciano Ama Western Front, indicates that "at 0645 on 10 November," FMLN forces "ambushed Colonel Benjamin Ramos' demoralized troops near the village of Las Negritas, Texistepeque Jurisdiction, on the Guarnecia-Los Horcones highway." Preliminary reports indicate that the rebels' booby traps and rifle fire caused "five casualties," and that "the dead include a sergeant in charge of the section and a radio operator." The information indicates that "two Air Force helicopters were sent to recover the casualties and indiscriminately strafe the villages of El Chaguite, El Tortuguero, and Los Mendez."

A report from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front reveals that "at 0715 on 11 November, a guerrilla group attacked with rifle fire a unit of soldiers from the 1st Infantry Brigade's San Carlos Battalion in the area of La Tiendita farm, San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department." The information adds that the 1-hour clash resulted in nine enemy casualties and that the enemy units were evicted from the sector. Furthermore, "the demoralized troops could not cope so they requested support from the Air Force, which sent two UH-1H helicopters, one Hughes 500-MD helicopter, and a C-47 airplane to strafe the zone and endanger the peasants' lives, animals, and crops."

Radio Venceremos also carries the report about an ambush carried out at 0945 on 10 November, "in memory of our Comrades Carlos, Rutilio, Pedro, Lazaro, and Tito." The information indicates "three booby traps were used to ambush a truck carrying members of the 2d Infantry Brigade near Las Canoas, along the Santa Ana-San Salvador highway. The enemy sustained seven dead and seven wounded, and the truck was seriously damaged."

164 Army Casualties

PA1411181088 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] As the result of clashes last week, the FMLN inflicted 164 casualties on the Army, including dead and wounded. This figure includes two noncommissioned officers, a radio operator, and a Civil Defense commander.

The rebels inflicted 67 casualties on the puppet army during 8 ambushes. Additionally, a personnel carrier, three military trucks, and two Treasury Police barracks, one in San Ramon and one in Nueva Concepcion, Chalatenango, were destroyed.

Also during the last week, the rebel army seized 12 M-16 rifles, 1 M-2 carbine, 1,056 rounds of ammunition, 1 ammunition belt containing 200 7.62-cal cartridges, 8 military type knapsacks, uniforms, and other supplies.

FMLN sappers destroyed 59 energy distribution system structures, including posts, towers, transformers, and high-tension cables. Futhermore, the rebels sabotaged a coffee plantation in the Jucuapa area. Guerrillas destroyed two railroad engines and an Agriculture and Livestock Ministry office.

Army Colonel, Coprefa on Rebel Casualties

300 Casualties in 7 Months

PA1411140488 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Report by Carlos Armando Rivera]

[Text] The commander of the Salvadoran Army 4th Infantry Brigade claims his forces inflicted 300 casualties on the Salvadoran guerrilla movement in 7 months of war activity.

Today, the Salvadoran Army claimed to have eliminated 30 percent of the entire guerrilla force operating in small cells in northern Chalatenango Department.

According to Colonel Ciro Lopez Roque, 4th Infantry Brigade commander, the Army has been conducting operations with elite battalions supported by artillery units and the Air Force since April 1988, which has resulted in 300 rebel casualties:

[Begin recording] Since the beginning of the "Heroes of El Paraiso" operation we have killed a total of 158 terrorists and wounded about the same number of rebels. We are talking about confirmed wounded rebels. There are always more dead rebels than those we can confirm, because the rebels take the wounded guerrillas with them, and many of them then die. Those are not included in the information I am giving you. [end recording]

The Army estimates that approximately 1,000 rebels are operating with mobile units in Chalatenango Department. The guerrilla movement has presently begun attacks on municipal government offices, which are considered counterinsurgency springboards.

The San Francisco Morazan Mayorship was destroyed by the rebels last week. Col Lopez commented on the number of Army casualties:

[Begin recording] We estimate that approximately 28 Army troops have been killed in the last 7 months. The number of dead soldiers increased after the attack on the 4th Infantry Brigade, in which officers and troops were killed. [end recording]

The Army is currently conducting military operations to find the mobile guerrilla units and prevent the regrouping of those units, which could subsequently attack the 4th Infantry Brigade again. Some of those operations are coordinated with the Honduran Army, because the latter allows the Salvadoran Army troops to enter the undelimited border areas to look for rebels without remaining in those areas for an extended period of time.

The Army must slowly increase its military actions as the elections approach. Operational plans must be aimed at protecting the polls in the various municipalities in Chalatenango Department, because the guerrilla movement announced it will attack municipal government facilities; they are considered to be the basic units of the upcoming elections.

11 'Rebels' Killed in Clashes

PA1711193288 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] At least eight rebels were killed yesterday afternoon in Usulutan Department during a clash with Army soldiers. According to reports released by Coprefa, Atonal Battalion soldiers dismantled a rebel camp in San Rafael, Santa Elena Jurisdiction. A report released today confirms the deaths of the eight rebels.

It was also learned that three rebels were killed in different areas of the country. According to the Coprefa reports, the three rebels died during clashes in Lislique, La Union Department; Sensuntepeque, Cabanas Department; and Tecoluca, San Vicente Department. Coprefa also reported that two soldiers were wounded in the clash in Tecoluca, San Vicente Department.

Guatemala

Cerezo Accuses Cuba, U.S. of Backing 'Violence'

PA1711160788 Paris AFP in Spanish 0156 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Nov (AFP)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today said Cuba and the United States are the "main backers of the violence in Central America."

Meeting with Guatemalan journalists, Cerezo said "we have to reject violence. We can only do so with the help of all the other countries of the region that can influence the backers of the violence," which are "Cuba and the United States."

"We have to ask that the promotion of violence be stopped. We have to speak frankly and state the truth. This means not only accusing the United States, but also Cuba, which supports and trains armed groups," he said.

The president also announced that a summit of Central American presidents to reactivate the peace process might be held on 15 January. Cerezo said that although some Central American countries "would like to see the summit delayed," Guatemala will insist that it be held.

"My personal impression," he added, "is that there are efforts to try to delay the summit to wait for a definition of the new U.S. policy toward Central America." Nevertheless, he said that "now is the time to work on drawing up a joint Central American position so we can present it to the Bush administration."

President Reiterates Refusal To Talk With Rebels

PA1711165288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1656 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today reasserted that the guerrilla groups' refusal to lay down their weapons has caused a "vicious circle" which precludes a direct dialogue. He added that this is an issue on which he will not give in.

The Christian Democratic leader clearly said that the Guatemalan rebel leaders "will not participate in a national dialogue" with all the other groups that was announced by the National Reconciliation Commission on 7 November.

Cerezo said the guerrillas' attitude "runs counter to historical trends," because they create "a dilemma and a vicious circle" by refusing to lay down their weapons and join Guatemala's democratic process. Cerezo asserted: The rebels "do not have any support from the people," because the people voted in the 1985 elections for the enforcement of the Constitution, which allows participation in the nation's political process "without weapons."

"The guerrilla members believe they are revolutionaries, but this does not give them the right to participate in a national dialogue; the Anticommunist Secret Army (ESA) could demand the same thing," Cerezo emphasized.

The URNG, which held "preliminary" talks with Cerezo's government in October 1987 in Madrid, has publicly insisted that it wants to hold talks "to strengthen the democratic process."

Nevertheless, Cerezo asserted on several occasions that he will not talk with the guerrilla groups. The Army commanders have added that they will not do so either, because they do not recognize the guerrilla organizations as such. The Army commanders have stated that they are dealing with "small groups" that are being neutralized by the troops.

Catalina Soberanis, assistant secretary of the ruling Christian Democratic Party and Legislative Congress deputy, said "a gradual understanding might be reached with the guerrilla groups."

Cerezo Rules Out Seizures, Bank Nationalization

PA1711171788 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Nov 88 p 14

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo yesterday said the government will not implement agrarian reform based on expropriation of property. Cerezo also denied that bank nationalizations are planned, adding that his government will increase support for the private sector because it is the one that generates wealth.

What is happening at CACIF [Coordinating Committee of Farming, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations] is that it is looking more like a political party, because its activities are ideological, not economic, Cerezo noted.

As for politicians who have criticized the large 1989 budget, Cerezo said they are just seeking media coverage for the upcoming elections.

He pointed out that those who oppose the budget do not want a democratic Guatemala and economic and social progress.

More than 1 billion quetzals will be spent next year in education and health and in the creation of jobs. The deficit can reach up to 3 percent above the annual budget, and the government has not reached that limit, Cerezo pointed out.

Finally, the president said no new taxes will be created as a result of tax reform.

Nicaragua

Government Recognizes Palestinian State

PA1711130788 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Nov 88 p 5

[Message from President Daniel Ortega to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat issued in Managua on 15 November]

[Text] Managua, 15 November 1988

Commander Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution's Armed Forces

Dear Mr Chairman and friend:

On behalf of the FSLN, the Nicaraguan people and Government, and myself, I wish to express to you, the PLO Executive Committee, and the heroic Palestinian fighters our most sincere congratulations for the historic and most important declaration of the Palestinian state.

The Nicaraguan people and government are rejoicing over this announcement, which is a worthy and well-deserved homage to the Palestinian fighters' spirit of sacrifice, tenacity, and perseverance. The heroic Palestinian fighters have shed their blood to uphold the right of all peoples to their own state, to sovereignty, and to self-determination.

We are sure that this historic decision will urge other peoples to intensify their efforts so an international peace conference on the Middle East will be held soon with the participation of the PLO on an equal basis.

On this occasion, we want to notify you officially of our recognition of the Palestinian state. We reiterate our support for and solidarity with all the measures and actions that the PLO Executive Committee will carry out to fully exercise its right to sovereignty and self-determination, to which it is entitled as an independent state.

We are sure that the maturity achieved throughout so many long years of struggle under the correct guidance of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, will allow you to assume this new responsibility and to carry out with greater strength and determination the construction and consolidation of the Palestinian state.

On expressing my best wishes for the success of this mission, I reiterate my greetings and my most sincere congratulations. Fraternally yours,
Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Municipal Elections Possibly Delayed Until 1990

PA1711200788 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Report on interview with Economy Minister Luis Carrion by unidentified reporter—date and place not given]

[Text] Managua, 15 Nov—Economy Minister Commander Luis Carrion said in an interview that the Sandinist government is planning to postpone the 1989 municipal elections until 1990 because they cannot be financed due to the deep economic crisis.

Carrion is one of the nine ruling FSLN commanders who, in the final analysis, make the decisions in Nicaragua.

The government officials had promised to hold mayoral elections in Nicaraguan towns and cities in 1989. In an interview in June, President Daniel Ortega said the elections would probably be held in March or April. The

opposition political parties had been waiting for these elections because they believed they could profit from the discontent caused by the acute economic crisis in Nicaragua and win many municipal seats.

The 1987 regional peace agreement signed by the five Central American presidents included a commitment to hold regular democratic elections.

Carrion said there is "substantial agreement" among the Sandinist leaders that it would be very costly to hold mayoral elections in 1989 and presidential elections in 1990 as the Constitution stipulates. The current plan is to hold them simultaneously, he said.

Carrion said the Nicaraguan economy is in "extremely critical" condition after Hurricane Joan caused more than $900 million damage. This is the first estimate in dollars the government has given since the hurricane hit Nicaragua on 22 October.

The minister said the hurricane will probably "neutralize" the anti-inflationary effects of a controversial and drastic austerity program begun in February. The government had cut its expenses by more than 10 percent prior to the hurricane. On Wednesday, the dollar rose by 31 percent in the most commonly used official exchange rate, a sign of the increasing inflation.

The foreign aid Nicaragua expects to receive will not be close to what is needed to finance the reconstruction, Carrion said, adding: We will have to issue paper money just to pay the tens of thousands of victims of the hurricane who lost their homes.

Nevertheless, the government will not make any substantial cut in military expenses, which economists say are the biggest cause of Nicaragua's fiscal misfortunes. According to official figures, defense spending absorbs 52 percent of the budget. Carrion said that as long as the contras are armed, the government will maintain its current commitment to its Armed Forces, which comprise 85,000 active duty troops.

Carrion admitted that the recent setbacks have provoked heated debates in the ruling party. Many FSLN members, he said, have begun to ask in what direction the party is going on the various problems.

He said, however, that the Sandinist leadership does not see a turn to the left as a feasible solution. If we said that we would expropriate all private property and create a socialist state, we would probably not achieve socialism but would end up in a "more economically disastrous and chaotic situation than what we have now," Carrion said.

"The most important private properties in this country are small- and medium-size, not large properties. That cannot change. Therefore, a mixed economy will be a reality for a long time in Nicaragua. There can be no radical changes," Carrion said. At this time, nearly two-thirds of the economy is in private hands.

Regarding the U.S. presidential elections, Carrion echoed the unusual comments with which Ortega received George Bush's victory.

"We would like to think that a new administration, even a new Republican administration, will use the opportunity to abandon the Reagan policy and explore the options for negotiations in Central America," Carrion said.

The Sandinists believe the U.S. Government's policy supporting the contras' efforts to oust the Managua government has created a "deep crisis" for the Reagan administration in this region, Carrion said.

LA PRENSA Praises Reagan; Questions FSLN

PA1611160788 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Reagan Is Leaving; What Remains of the Revolution?"]

[Text] On 20 January 1980 [year as published], Ronald Reagan was sworn in as President of the United States, just like 40 other U.S. Presidents in the past. In July 1979, 18 months earlier, the Nicaraguan people had enthusiastically initiated a revolutionary period after having forcefully deposed the tyrannical regime of the Somoza family. Trusting in the promises made by the (then) young FSLN leaders, the people handed the government to that "vanguard" group. The promises are listed in a letter sent to the OAS with a 12 July 1979 dateline.

This letter has been characterized as a commitment letter. Summarizing, the "Plan of the National Reconstruction Government To Reach Peace" spoke of the obligation to respect human rights and to hold free elections.

The first serious symptoms of deviation from the original plan appeared during the first 3 months of 1981. Violeta Chamorro and Alfonso Robelo had resigned from the government junta in protest over these deviations. President Carter, who liked to please the Sandinist leadership, stopped the $150-million economic aid program the United States had generously offered to the Sandinists. The Republican Party's political platform, on which Reagan had secured his election, warned that the United States would implement a harsh foreign policy against the Sandinist government if it did not mend its errors. So the Sandinist rulers at the time (who are the rulers still) had been warned of what would come if they insisted on implementing their "Historic Project," which has been rejected by the Nicaraguan people.

However, some of the fervor and popular unity of 1979 and a great deal of sympathy and international economic aid still remained at that time. The Sandinists, heedless of the warnings by people who foresaw what would

happen, set out on "David's war against Goliath" (as they liked to call it). Envisioning a spectacular victory "that would put them above Marx and Lenin in the struggle against imperialism," they launched themselves and the people in a mad venture, the results of which we are seeing today.

President Reagan took up the absurd challenge, and playing as a cat plays with a mouse, used the best weapons at his disposal: the disillusionment and despair of Nicaraguans, but he never committed U.S. lives and prestige. A small investment for a big deal.

And 8 years later—following Ortega's ridiculous cry: "Reagan leaves and the revolution remains!"—we see the misguided (not to use other adjectives) direction and implementation of the foreign policy of a man and party that, having had the opportunity in their hands to usher in an era of peace and progress for the Nicaraguan people, have brought them war, destruction, death, and backwardness. The final catastrophe of this era looms near.

Reagan is leaving! He will leave in accordance with the law of democracy recognized by his people. In exchange for their trust, he has given his people 8 years of economic welfare, peace, and respectability.

After receiving a Presidency battered by international disrespect (the Tehran hostages), high interest rates (up to 22 percent a year), unemployment (up to 10 percent), high fuel prices (up to $42 a barrel), he is leaving now by the gentle rules [suave pendiente] of law. He leaves his country at peace, respected in all the corners of the world, with a 6-percent annual interest rate, with the lowest unemployment rate in U.S. history, with oil barrel prices at the lowest level in the last 25 years. Admittedly, Reagan is leaving! However, how few leaders can leave office so comfortably. He is leaving! However, if election forecasts by the surveys prove correct, he will be replaced by his vice president, Bush. Should this happen, it will be the first time in the history of U.S. elections that a sitting vice president will become president. [as published] That is nothing but his people granting Reagan a third term. In other words: "Reagan is not leaving" and "the revolution remains." However, what does remain of this revolution? Can one talk of "a revolution that remains" because the same president and exactly the same group of people hold on to power by the use of weapons? Is the FSLN the "revolution?"

The revolution was all of us Nicaraguans who on 19 July 1979 believed "a new kind of man would invade the future!" What remains of those illusions?

PROMISES	REALITIES
1. National Unity	1. Nonexistent.
2. Democracy and free elections	2. A party in power, fraudulently elected in 1984, and 14 opposition parties against it.
3. A healthy economy	3. Destruction of the few uncontrolled national riches that existed in 1979 has led to the current economic chaos, which is a veritable disaster.
4. Firm national currency	4. The national currency, the cordoba, is the most discredited instrument in the world. It is devalued almost daily; it has been demonetized; and it will probably die again soon.
5. Peace	5. According to the Sandinists' estimates, the war has cost us more than 20,000 lives in 8 years, plus thousands of mutilated and missing people, and the end of the war is not in sight.
6. Public freedoms	6. An almost permanent state of suspended guarantees has turned the people into a pariah conglomerate that has no rights and is at the mercy of the most powerful.
7. Optimism and joy	7. A feeling of pessimism, frustration, bitterness and even a heretofore unseen rancor prevails among Nicaraguans. Reagan always said he did not wish to defeat Sandinism, only to amend it or exhibit it. He attained the latter, and how! Reagan defeated the Historical Project, proved Sandinism was completely useless, and the Sandinists fell for Reagan's trap by becoming the accomplices to his "aggression."
8. Agrarian revolution	8. Somozist lands were confiscated first, and then every dissident's lands were arbitrarily confiscated. This attained the destruction of our agricultural production, and the creation of more agrarian cooperatives—which are military garrisons in disguise.
9. Workers will have the right to organize	9. Workers have been repressed, beaten, and imprisoned for demanding their right to organize. The Sandinist Central Organization of Workers and the Association of Agricultural Workers are mass organizations at the service of the FSLN and not at the service of the workers and peasants.
10. The Atlantic coast will be developed	10. Repression against the Atlantic coast ethnic groups and their brutal eradication motivated a worldwide protest. Hurricane "Joan" destroyed what the FSLN has not been able to destroy. The arrival of Cuban neosettlers has now been announced.

Willingness To 'Normalize' Relations With U.S.
PA1611131388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2131 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 15 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua is willing to discuss any security issues with the United States and to "normalize" relations with Washington, Nicaraguan OAS Ambassador Carlos Tunnermann said today in San Salvador.

Tunnermann, who is participating in the 18th OAS General Assembly in San Salvador, maintained that the Nicaraguan revolution does not affect U.S. security. He said Managua "would like to have normal relations" with the United States. Nicaragua's desire for normal relations with the United States, according to Tunnermann, contrasts with the negative position of President Reagan, who has chosen aid to the contras as the solution to Nicaraguan-U.S. problems.

The decision to help the anti-Sandinists has failed because, according to Tunnermann, the contras have made no gains, except for killing over 50,000 people, of which 25,000 were women, peasants, elderly people, and children "killed by the contras with U.S. financing." [passage omitted]

Regarding the reports on human rights violations in Nicaragua, the ambassador said people often "do not understand" that the restrictions of some rights "are due to the war situation we are facing."

The Nicaraguan ambassador said his country has lifted the state of emergency in compliance with the Esquipulas II peace plan. He added that some of the media have been punished because they "violated the security and public order laws by reporting false news." [passage omitted]

FRG Ambassador Calls Ortega Remarks 'Unusual'
PA1611145688 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] Dr Josef Rusnak, FRG ambassador to Nicaragua, has described President Daniel Ortega's remarks about the FRG as "a bit unusual." President Ortega made the remarks during his speech at the opening session of a seminar on the Central American Parliament held at the Olof Palme Convention Center.

During his speech, President Ortega talked about the aid the Sandinist Government has received from abroad and criticized the FRG for conditioning its aid "to certain democratic changes" the FRG expects the Sandinist regime to make.

Ortega added that the fact the FRG has conditioned its aid to Nicaragua entitles the Nicaraguan Government to criticize that country and expose some of the Germans' "skeletons in the closet." The Nicaraguan president did not specify what was meant by "skeletons in the closet."

FRG Ambassador Rusnak, who had been invited to attend the seminar with other members of the diplomatic corps, walked out of the convention center and expressed his displeasure over Ortega's remarks. Dr Josef Rusnak said that "saying things like that at an event such as this one is a bit unusual." In reply to a question by LA PRENSA concerning Ortega's remarks, the FRG ambassador said he could not understand what led Ortega to comment on the FRG in that way. When we interviewed him, the ambassador had not decided whether he would make a formal protest to the Sandinist government. Other ambassadors who attended the seminar at the Olof Palme Convention Center were also astonished by Ortega's remarks. They described them as disrespectful to the FRG and other diplomatic missions present at the event.

Rusnak told LA PRENSA that Ortega's remarks were groundless and added that the FRG had been among the first countries to offer to help Nicaragua after it was hit by Hurricane Joan.

FRG Ambassador Rusnak added that the first shipment of FRG aid, consisting of medical supplies worth DM250,000, approximately $140,000, had already arrived in Nicaragua. He also said more donations from the FRG were expected shortly.

Rusnak also said that in addition to the $140,000 in medical supplies, the FRG will be giving Nicaragua the technical aid it needs to rebuild the country. This technical aid will be worth DM3 million, approximately $1.6 million.

Ambassador Rusnak said the FRG never conditioned its aid to the victims of Hurricane Joan. Rusnak confirmed, however, that during Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado's European tour, the FRG Government told him it did not approve of the Nicaraguan Government's decision to keep opposition leaders in prison.

Rusnak recalled that the FRG Parliament stopped all financial aid to Nicaragua in 1985 after determining there were certain democratic conditions Nicaragua should meet to be eligible for financial aid. Since 1985 Nicaragua has received only technical aid from the FRG.

Contras Kill 3 Soldiers in Jinotega Ambush
PA1511164288 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 13 Nov 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Felix Rivera]

[Text] Jinotega—EPS 386th Brigade sources have reported that a group of contras from the so-called Salvador Perez Command murdered three young EPS fighters in the mountains of this department on 11 November.

Alberto Jose Palacios, Julio Sanchez Rodriguez, and Isaac Antonio Navarrete Cano are the victims of this new terrorist action, which saddened this city. A fourth young man may have been a casualty of this attack, but no further details about him are known.

An officer said approximately 50 counterrevolutionaries ambushed an EPA truck carrying young members of the Facundo Picado light infantry battalion near El Delirio, 60 km northeast from Jinotega.

Several soldiers jumped down from the truck and quickly repelled the attackers, who fled in disarray toward La Virgen and El Guapinol.

The bodies of the young soldiers were taken to their homes. After the proper military honors, they were buried at the local cemetery.

The murders of the three Jinotega men have plunged the city's honest, patriotic people into deep mourning. The people condemned the contras' criminal action.

This is the second criminal action by the contras since Mr Bush was elected U.S. President. The first such action occurred at Santa Teresita, a privately owned ranch, where terrorists kidnapped 13 peasants.

Arms, Ammunition Found in La Esperanza
PA1511160188 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 9

[Summary] Authorities have discovered an arms cache at Valle de Cerro Grande, La Esperanza Jurisdiction, consisting of a FAL rifle with 358 cartridges, an AKA rifle with 30 cartridges, an ammunition belt, an olive-green knapsack, and a belt for FAL magazines. The arms and supplies were found in the home of Victor Casco Alfaro, who was detained with Santos David Inestroza.

'Soviet Products' Unloaded at Corinto
PA1511160488 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Nov 88 p 6

[Summary] An East German ship, the "Balstik," one of the most modern ships to arrive in Nicaragua, is now docked at Corinto. The ship started to unload 4,370 tons of Soviet products on 6 November. Meanwhile, another ship, the "Vasiliy Fesenkov," loaded bananas and other tropical fruits for Belgium, and the "Peiko Esloveikov" unloaded Bulgarian products.

'Financial Reasons' Force IBM To Close
PA1611142088 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Nov 88 p 12

[Summary] Danilo Ramirez, IBM's general manager in Nicaragua, has reported that the corporation is preparing to close its business in the country. IBM, which has been operating in Nicaragua for 30 years, expects to cancel all contracts so it can pull out. No date was specified, however. Ramirez said the decision is based purely on financial reasons. The country's economic situation has made the company's operations untenable.

Panama

Noriega Cancels Announced Visit to Nicaragua
PA1711200688 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1836 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 17 Nov (REUTER)—Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama's military leader, today canceled his announced visit to Nicaragua. This would have been one of his few trips abroad since last year, when pressure for his resignation began.

Local Nicaraguan officials informed journalists waiting for Noriega's arrival at the Managua airport that the Panamanian general had canceled his trip at the last minute and that they did not know the reasons for the cancellation.

When Noriega's trip to Nicaragua was announced last night, the officials making the announcement provided no details other than that Nicaraguan Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega would greet Noriega at the airport. [passage omitted]

Upcoming Replacement of U.S. Envoy Viewed
PA1611131888 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Nov 88 p 4

[Editorial: Davis' Anguish]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis has started to feel anguish in view of Michael Dukakis' defeat and the triumph of George Bush. Davis now sees how his disinformation campaign and pressures against Panama have failed along with the deeds of his flatterers of the opposition.

To support Davis' position, Gabriel Lewis Galindo, the indefatigable worker of the cruzados [members of the opposition Civic Crusade], started to get in touch with his brothers in the U.S. Congress—Senators D'Amato and Kennedy—to ask them to exercise pressure so Davis can continue trying to succeed after the resounding failure of his harassment campaign and pressure against Panamanians.

It was learned that Ambassador Davis and John Maisto have increased their contacts and meetings with local politicians to study and assess the plans that failed and the ones they will develop before the transfer of power in the United States. They want to attain what they have not attained thus far. In other words, they want to destabilize the Panamanian Government and install former President Delvalle and the leaders of the Civic Crusade.

With his actions, Davis wants to appear as the man necessary to destroy the Panamanian regime. In that way, he will get the new U.S. President to let him stay on as ambassador to Panama. However, it seems that on this occasion all the maneuvers taking place in Washington and the measures the U.S. Embassy is planning to take in the coming days will fail, because the political thought of Bush and his advisers is very different from those plans. We are sure that once Mr Bush assumes his mandate he will make basic changes in U.S. embassies throughout Latin America, especially the one in Panama.

The plans of Davis, Lewis Galindo, and the other members of the Panamanian opposition will sink very soon. With those plans, they intend to destroy the Panamanian Democratic Revolutionary Party by provoking internal party conflicts and to discredit labor organizations and other organizations. The moment Davis and Maisto leave for other lands to drink their well-known "gin and tonics" is not very far.

Solis Palma 'Economic Team' Change Possible

PA1611195788 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 15 Nov 88 p 10

[Text] According to information received by MEDIODIA, an influential sector of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the ruling majority party, is studying the possibility of recommending changes to President Manuel Solis Palma's economic team.

Dr. Gustavo Gonzalez currently is Panama's planning and economic policy minister; Eng Mario Rognoni is in charge of the commerce and industries portfolio; Dr. Orville Goodin heads the Finance and Treasury Ministry; and Darinel Espino heads the Agricultural Development Ministry.

Solis Palma appointed his current ministers' team last March, describing them as members of a "war cabinet."

However, sources consulted by MEDIODIA believe that after 8 months in office it is necessary to replace the current ministers, particularly those who make up the economic team.

The same sources mentioned the possibility of cabinet changes because several ministers wish to participate in the upcoming elections and such aspirations will force them to leave office by 7 February 1989.

Reagan, Delvalle To Sign New Canal Treaty

PA1611234388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] In its desperate effort to subjugate the Panamanian people by force, the Reagan administration, in complicity with traitor Eric Arturo Delvalle, is trying to "sign a new Panama Canal Treaty to abrogate the Torrijos-Carter treaties signed in 1977."

To carry out its strategy, the Reagan administration has the support of antipatriots who are responsible for the hunger siege imposed against the Panamanian people.

A group of traitors is collecting signatures of Panamanians who, according to them, "endorse that action."

The Reagan administration's "strategy' is firmly supported by Eric Arturo Delvalle, as the "pacts" would be signed by President Reagan himself, other senior U.S. Government officials, Eric A. Delvalle—as the president whom the United States recognizes—[Delvalle Ambassador to the United States] Juan B. Sosa, and representatives from the Panamanian opposition parties.

Businessmen, industrialists, merchants, and even the Catholic Church are mentioned as accomplices in this hoax against the Panamanian people who approved the Torrijos-Carter treaties in a plebiscite.

Economic 'Recovery' in 3d Trimester Noted

PA1111231988 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 Nov 88 pp 2, 10

[Text] Planning and Economic Policy Minister Gustavo Gonzalez has said: "In the 3d trimester of 1988, we can see a recovery in certain private consumption indicators, manifesting themselves as increases in production, industrial processing, demand for agro-industrial products, food imports, raw materials for industrial use, and consumption of electric power for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes."

The minister explained that while there is a slight recovery, ministry estimates for the current year, which predict a 20-percent drop in the Gross Domestic Product, will be maintained, because the favorable changes registered by the nation's economy—in spite of the strong U.S. restrictions—are still not strong enough to warrant adjusting the indicators used to make the annual forecasts.

A formal breakdown reveals that construction permits slightly improved during the 3d trimester, in relation to the March-June period, when the monthly level of construction dropped to just .5 million balboas. Current construction projects surpass the 1 million balboas level.

The sale of cement increased significantly, and in August, imports of other consumer goods, which basically represent raw materials for industrial use, increased 50 percent compared to July.

On a different matter, the Planning Ministry's information indicates that the sectors showing the fastest recovery are agriculture, cattle raising, fishing, and the Colon Free Zone.

Jurists Discuss 1989 Elections Outlook

PA1311160988 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Nov 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Article by Juan Carlos Duque M.]

[Excerpts] Should the opposition participate in the 1989 elections? This and other questions were discussed by two prominent Panamanian jurists during a luncheon of industrialists organized by the Association of Panamanian Industrialists [SIP].

Expressing slightly different views and voicing criticism as well as positive comments regarding the elections that are expected to be held in May 1989, Dr Cesar A. Quintero, law professor, former dean of the School of Law and Political Science at the University of Panama, and former Electoral Tribunal magistrate; and Dr. Mario Galindo, lawyer, author, and student of legal and political problems, spoke to approximately 150 SIP members.

Quintero feels that there are big differences between the current conditions and guarantees that existed during the 1984 elections. Galindo believes that there are aspects in the current electoral period that discourage participation by the opposition.

Quintero discussed the 1984 elections and pointed out questionable practices in those elections. Galindo recalled the past 20 years of military government and concluded that the current administration would avoid the elections if all the opposition parties were united and planned to participate.

Galindo noted that in 1984 the elections were held amid a climate of partial freedoms; however, he stressed, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and the United States "did not look favorably upon Dr Arnulfo Arias." He said that there are two confrontations in Panama's political life: the opposition parties with the support of the Civic Crusade against the FDP, and the government confrontation with the United States. He stressed that a conflict between the United States and Panama is based on the assumption that the opposition wants a submissive government.

Galindo established that a solution to the Panamanian crisis can be obtained through: 1. violence; 2. civil disobedience; or 3. the elections. He stressed that he totally rejects violence; however, he noted that Panamanians "must study the measures that other Latin American countries have used to solve their crises," and mentioned the cases of Colombia and Venezuela as examples of countries that lived under military rule.

"We must carefully analyze the methods that were feasible in those countries," he said, but admitted that "there are no magic formulas," thus acknowledging that electoral procedures and pacts were subsequently violated.

Galindo said that the government is interested in holding elections because of the confrontation between the FDP and the United States, a country that has based its policy on support for Eric Arturo Delvalle, and other factors. He added that now that the U.S. elections are over, the United States would have to recognize the new president, eliminate the restrictions, and release the country's frozen funds.

The distinguished legal expert said the government wants elections without the participation of the opposition because the government knows the opposition will win if it participates. He then discussed the electoral amendments.

Describing the electoral amendments as disheartening, he said they seek to persuade the opposition not to participate in the elections.

The amendments "let the government's candidate leap from the post he is holding to become a candidate, do away with the election of mayors, suppress the legitimacy of campaign contributions, and authorize the FDP to vote anywhere."

"With these measures, the government is not interested in the opposition's participation in the elections. Jailings continue and the news media remain closed because there is no respect for legal norms," he stressed. [passage omitted]

"It Is an Agonizing Dilemma."

With these words, Dr Cesar Quintero began his lecture. He was referring to the upcoming elections. "It is one of the most difficult and compromising dilemmas," Quintero added.

He assessed the electoral conditions and guarantees in 1984 and in 1989, stressing that in 1984 "there was a climate of trust." [passage omitted]

Quintero summarized the contrast this way: "There is a noticeable difference between November 1983 and November 1989."

He felt that due to the current conditions, the elections are not feasible. He stressed that the elections could worsen the crisis.

Quintero said that the elections would not solve the crisis. By that he meant that the elections are not feasible unless the crisis is resolved beforehand.

"If the elections are a farce, they will aggravate the situation," he noted.

Cesar Quintero felt that by the end of the year there must be a restructuring so that there can be free elections. He expressed his hope that this will happen.

In the 1984 elections, $19 million were spent. However, the budget for the 1989 elections is $13 million. [passage omitted]

Neither Quintero nor Galindo gave specific reasons for the need for or advisability of the opposition being part of the elections. They did, however, shed some light on the matter. Quintero clearly said that the current conditions and situation place the opposition sectors at a substantial disadvantage compared to the opportunities available in 1984. Moreover, Galindo stressed that he felt that if the opposition united to endorse a single candidate, this development would heighten the risk that there would be no elections. However, he added: "There are thousands of things that can be done to end the crisis...if the government wants it to end."

"I do not know if the government wants it to end," he said. [passage omitted]

Esquivel Discusses Elections, Role of FDP

PA1711194988 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Interview with Dr Roderick Esquivel, Liberal Party leader and deposed vice president, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Esquivel] We must hold elections. But the most important thing is who will preside over them. A national reconstruction government will preside over clean, meaningful elections that will finally end the Panamanian people's struggle to return to democracy and achieve national reconstruction on a democratic basis.

[Reporter] The opposition has not yet said whether or not they will participate in the elections. What do you think about that?

[Esquivel] We have not expressed an opinion on the elections announced by the government, which knows the only way it could become legitimate would be to participate in these elections and then say it won. But it would be impossible. The government would not win even if we participate, at the worst, which is extremely unlikely. The government, as it now stands, has no chance of winning. The problem apparently is to determine whether or not the opposition is united or whether or not the cases of Korea or the Philippines will be repeated. However, the problem in Panama is entirely different. If the opposition had to confront this government—at the worst, may I repeat—in elections presided over by Noriega's government, the number of opposition votes would be so large, even if they manipulated the elections, that they obviously would not become legitimate, which is what they want to accomplish through such prearranged elections and the lack of any appropriate economic or political conditions.

[Reporter] Do you think the opposition could unite for the elections?

[Esquivel] Definitely. This country's leading politicians are united and know they are greatly identified with each other on the issue of a suitable candidate. I have my own opinion. In this country, the less important politicians seem to speak more. Leading politicians are united and identified with each other. If the right moment comes, we could easily demonstrate this unity and force.

[Reporter] Who are these leading politicians you are referring to?

[Esquivel] I do not want to mention them by name for personal reasons. The important thing is to determine the nature of the important political forces at work in Panama. These forces are the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], the United States, and the Panamanian political opposition.

[Reporter] Do you think Bush's policy in Panama could change now that he has been elected President?

[Esquivel] No. I think the U.S. policy is clear enough and that the United States will continue to support the constitutional government. The United States will also try to help Panama return to democracy and achieve economic recovery. This the U.S. policy. Another force at work politically in Panama is the FDP. Democracy cannot be truly achieved in Panama without the FDP. Any politician who disregards the importance of this force is wrong. This country's impasse occurs within the FDP. Nobody would deny the importance of our Army, our FDP, because they are this country's defense forces. Nobody denies the importance of this force to maintain the institutions, the country's stability, and democracy. But the impasse occurs—not within the Panamanian people, not within Panama's political organizations, not within the U.S. stance, but in this other sector, the FDP.

[Reporter] Do you think the opposition should participate in the 1989 elections?

[Esquivel] I will refrain from giving you any dates. We must hold elections, because they are the instrument of democracy. But we will not participate in elections that are an instrument of the dictatorship.

PRD Faction Leader Suggests Talks With Bush

PA1511165988 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 14 Nov 88 p 10

[Text] Ramiro Vasquez Chambonnet, head of the communist faction in the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), today suggested the possibility of beginning "negotiations with the Bush administration early next year, when Bush begins his term at the White House."

In an interview on the radio program "The Other Side of the Coin" and in further statements to MEDIODIA, Vasquez proposed "an open debate with the new U.S. Administration, without the participation of the Panamanian opposition," which he described as "an accessory of U.S. force."

Ramiro Vasquez, who was PRD secretary general until a few months ago, said "the failure of the U.S. strategy against Panama in the last 18 months forces the Bush administration to realistically focus on the Panama issue and to end the misconceptions about the world that are prevalent in current U.S. strategy."

Vasquez also said that the "quick option" initially planned by the Reagan administration did not work. He added that "this passage of time without reaching a political solution to the Panamanian problem" is already a concern for other Panama Canal users, such as Japan and European countries, which are demanding a solution.

Vasquez Chambonnet added that "the need to begin a dialogue for a negotiated political solution between the United States and Panama" does not include a modification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, because "that cannot be discussed and is not negotiable."

He did include as topics for possible talks "the commitment to a plan for Panama's democratic development" and the suspension of economic sanctions imposed in March.

Discussing the 1989 elections, the PRD communist faction leader said the UNADE [National Democratic Union] should shy away from forming a "false and artificial alliance" such as the one formed in 1984.

There should be a "class alliance with a new national pact, based on the principle of defending national gains," he added.

Ramiro Vasquez criticized the "opportunist attitude toward the elections by both the UNADE and the opposition. They have begun a savage and bloody race for votes, but without presenting any political programs."

Vasquez concluded by saying these parties "are bent on blowing their own horns very loudly and suddenly, but the people will destroy these illusions with their votes."

Paper Says U.S. Waging 'Biological Warfare'

PA1611121188 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Nov 88 pp 1, 24

[Text] Inasmuch as our country has courageously endured all of the coercive measures imposed by the U.S. Administration of Ronald Reagan—in addition to the constant threats of invasion and other types of repression, including a hunger siege—the United States knows it has failed and is now trying biological warfare against Panama.

Throughout the nation there have recently been cases of severe colds, influenza, grippe, meningitis, infectious hepatitis, and gastroenteritis that do not respond to antibiotics, in addition to a tremendous proliferation of the aedes aegypti mosquito.

When asked by CRITICA, Dr Orlando Allen said "part of the continuous aggression by Ronald Reagan's government against Panama was allowing a shipment of used tires to leave for Panama without first being sprayed with insecticides to fight the mosquito that transmits dengue and yellow fever."

Allen emphasized that the Health Ministry has information that there is a tremendous proliferation of aedes aegypti mosquitos in 14 U.S. states.

The health director added that "the Department of Maritime Health found larvae of the aedes mosquito and the mosquito that transmits dengue in several of the ships that brought the tires to our ports."

Meanwhile, this paper has learned that the United States spends $175 million a year on the production of chemical weapons.

This information was provided by the special subcommittee of the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Senate Labor and Social Welfare Committee [as published].

According to this report, the covert biological weapons used by Ronald Reagan's government are difficult to detect inasmuch as the biological agents are invisible, odorless, tasteless, do not produce immediate physiological damage, and are also impossible to detect early.

Panamanian PRD Leader Nils Castro Visits USSR

PA1411232588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Nov 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Moscow, 11 Nov (EFE)—Panamanian Nils Castro, executive secretary of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL), today said the Reagan administration has carried out "brutal aggression" against Panama, the effects of which are comparable to "an earthquake or hurricane."

Nils Castro, who is currently in Moscow with a COPPPAL delegation, said at a news conference that the U.S. economic siege has caused $2 billion in losses for the Panamanian Government.

The economic siege has also brought about a 22-percent drop in the Panamanian Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Panama will now only obtain 57 percent of expected revenues this year.

The COPPPAL executive secretary, who is a member of Panama's Democratic Revolutionary Party, said his country "has shown that one can defy the United States and withstand its hegemonic intentions."

The politician said Panama hopes the new U.S. Administration will correct the mistake made by the Reagan administration, but that any plans for the future will have to be based "on respect for the self-determination of the Panamanian people."

He said the COPPPAL delegation's visit to the USSR, which was made at the invitation of the Soviet Committee of Solidarity With Latin America, was in order to learn about the reforms begun in this country.

Officer Appointed Combined Board Chief

PA1711161588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Aristides Ivan Hassan Rodriguez—who is chief of military protocol, liaison with military attaches, and military historian—was sworn in yesterday as chief of the Combined Board.

In reporting Lt Col Hassan's new position within the Panama Defense Forces, it is suitable to point out that this officer is very patriotic and nationalistic and that his record of service to the fatherland is brilliant.

We wish Lt Col Hassan success in his new and important post.

Taiwan, Spain Donate Hurricane Aid

PA1611124788 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Nov 88 pp 2, 20.

[Summary] The Taiwanese Government and people, through His Excellency Ambassador Soon Chang-Chih, presented a 100,000-balboa donation to the Panamanian Government and people to support programs for victims of the recent Hurricane Joan. During the ceremony, Ambassador Soon said: "Our support exemplifies the cordial friendship that exists between our two countries." Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma expressed his gratitude to the Taiwanese Government and people by saying the donation "represents your kindness and that of your government, and we are honored by your friendship." Just days ago, the Panamanian Government received a message of solidarity from King Juan Carlos of Spain, who regretted the considerable damage caused by the hurricane. Spain made a 17-million peseta donation to Panama in the form of 7,000 kg of medicine, 4,500 kg of food, and 2,040 blankets. OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares also expressed a desire to help. Meanwhile, international news agencies report that Panama has been considered for inclusion in a structured emergency aid program sponsored by the EEC, which will also benefit Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Panama's share will be used to finance a program of immediate help for the homeless hurricane victims.

Argentina

UN Endorses Bilateral Falklands Talks

Cerutti Cites Stance

PY1711211088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2009 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] New York, 17 Nov (TELAM)—Today Argentina held the United Kingdom responsible for the absence of negotiations between the two sides regarding the Malvinas Islands, as the British Government continues to refuse to consider a peaceful and harmonious solution to this serious problem, whose continuation conspires against the stability and the progress in the southwest Atlantic.

During a UN General Assembly session today, Susana Ruiz Cerutti, the Argentine international relations secretary, said that, by its attitude, the United Kingdom has ignored former UN resolutions.

Ruiz Cerutti was explaining the Argentine position because Foreign Minister Dante Caputo was chairing the UN General Assembly. Nevertheless, Caputo delegated the conduct of today's session to the vice president as a gesture of impartiality in the chairmanship of the UN General Assembly.

Ruiz Cerutti said that the Malvinas issue is being discussed in an exceptional period in international relations, a period in which many regional conflicts have been resolved.

Ruiz Cerutti added that a process of transformation in the relations of the international community has begun, a process in which reason and diplomacy prevail over force and intolerance. However, the Malvinas issue is one of the international problems that has not benefited from recent improvement in this area.

Ruiz Cerutti said that the UN General Assembly has to discuss this issue once more because the two countries have not yet begun the substantive and indispensable negotiations to achieve a just and lasting solution to the dispute, despite repeated calls by the UN General Assembly and the flexibility and moderation demonstrated by our government.

Ruiz Cerutti added that this situation has been confirmed by a report of the UN secretary general, which states that no progress whatsoever has been made regarding the Malvinas issue in the past 12 months, thus causing understandable (?disappointment). She added that the British Government refuses to accept a resumption of negotiations with Argentina, which have repeatedly been requested by the UN General Assembly, and continues to refuse to consider a peaceful and harmonious solution to this serious problem.

This refusal, she continued, coincides with the British insistence on the condition that any talks with her country depend on Argentina's first abandoning any sovereignty claim. This condition is unacceptable and illogical because the Malvinas, South Georgia, and Sandwich Islands belong to the Argentine Republic. Argentina will never give up its sovereignty rights over them.

Cerutti said the British position is illogical because the sovereignty issue is at the core of Argentine-British relations. As established by Resolution 42/19, the relations between the two countries would improve if they could start an overall, bilateral negotiation aimed at reconstructing mutual confidence on solid bases, and could thus solve the pending problems, including all aspects of the Malvinas Islands future.

Supporting the UN proposals, Cerutti pointed out: We cannot rationally admit that a conflict, no matter its type, extent or complexity, cannot be solved through negotiations and agreements between the countries involved.

The Argentine ambassador then repeatedly questioned the British position. She asked: Why does the United Kingdom vote against a resolution that is merely part of a routine procedure which does not preconceive the final result of the negotiations or of the position of the parties? Why does the United Kingdom vote against the simplest proposal made to this assembly—a proposal that consists simply of asking why the two parties do not sit down to discuss the problem if they believe that there is a dispute?

Cerutti commented on the goodwill of the Argentine Government, to which London responded by holding military maneuvers in the region last March, apparently transforming the islands into a military training field.

She stressed that despite the British position, Argentina has resisted the temptation of making the climate of misunderstanding even more dense than it is through a similar type of behavior, and the Argentine Government has always maintained a positive and compliant position.

Cerutti also recalled the paradox in which two countries that are currently members of the Security Council, countries that during the past few years have on several occasions shared the responsibility of looking after peace during critical situations, have not yet been able to sit down face to face to renew the dialogue that will lead to the resolution of their disagreements.

She then lamented that Argentina is a country that, during its history, has welcomed important migratory flows, and can emphasize its spiritual, political and judicial capability. Argentina can ensure absolute respect for the individual and for the cultural inheritance of its inhabitants, and it does not hear an echo to a call that has the support of the international community.

Ruiz Cerutti concluded by saying that on the basis of the conviction to struggle to achieve the best solution to a very long and complex international controversy, our country expects from this assembly another declaration containing a call for good sense, rationality, and rapprochement. In other words, Argentina expects a declaration that will urge a renewal of negotiations in good faith between the parties in order to implement longstanding agreements that will permit the growth of development in the region and guarantee its peace.

Ministry Confirms UN Vote

PY1711232988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2251 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Nov (TELAM)—The Foreign Ministry tonight confirmed that the UN General Assembly vote on the proposal that Argentina and the United Kingdom begin diplomatic negotiations has resulted in 109 votes in favor, 5 against, and 37 abstentions.

The United Kingdom, Belize, Oman, Sri Lanka, and The Gambia voted against the proposal.

The UN resolution reiterates the request for holding talks and asks UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to continue with his mission of good offices between the two sides. The resolution also asks Perez de Cuellar to present a report to the 44th UN General Assembly.

UK's Tickell: 'Ready' To Meet

PY1811003688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2359 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] New York, 17 Nov (EFE)—Crispin Tickell, British ambassador to the United Nations, said today that his country is ready to start negotiations to unfreeze relations with Argentina as long as sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands is not included in the negotiations.

Tickell made this statement after the UN General Assembly approved—by 109 votes in favor, 5 opposed, and 37 abstentions—a resolution today asking the United Kingdom to start negotiations to solve the pending bilateral problems and the issue of the future of the Malvinas Islands.

Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who is the chairman of the UN General Assembly, did not preside over this debate. The Argentine delegation was represented by Foreign Ministry Secretary Susana Ruiz Cerutti, who addressed the assembly.

Tickell termed the voting "positive" because this year the number of votes opposed remained the same, while five fewer countries voted in favor of the resolution, and another country abstained from voting.

Regarding Caputo's invitation to hold a meeting, Tickell said: "I really want to see him; I am ready for the meeting." He added that the date for the meeting "depends" on the Argentine minister's decision.

Tickell said he hopes that, regardless of the results of the negotiations, the British-Argentine relations "do not deteriorate."

The Argentine representative regretted the absence in the debate of countries such as Bangladesh, Ecuatorial Guinea, Morocco, and Samoa, which voted in favor of Argentina last year. Diplomats also regretted the abstentions of Fiji, Senegal, and Trinidad and Tobago, which also voted for Argentina last year.

Army Officer Arrested After Arsenal Found

PY1711181088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1720 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Nov (NA)—This afternoon the Army General Staff officially released the following communique on the discovery of the clandestine arsenal in San Fernando:

In relation to the pretrial inquest ordered by Federal Judge Alberto Piotti of San Isidro into the discovery of arms and ammunition, the Army General Staff reports:

1. On a request from Judge Piotti, military personnel have arrested Lieutenant Colonel Guillermo Janza, who was the chief of the 601st Ammunition Company, for his alleged participation in the case under investigation.

2. Col Janza has been relieved of his post until the investigation is completed.

3. In addition to the legal proceedings taking place, the Army is investigating through a military court, and it is also taking inventory of materiel and ammunition in the course of investigating this case.

Bolivia

U.S. Comptroller Drug Report To Be Queried

PY1411180288 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the next few days, Bolivians will center their attention on several issues. We start the week with a report that may turn out to be a scandal if some sectors decide to exploit it for political purposes.

It deals with a report drafted by an office unknown to Bolivians: the Office of the U.S. Comptroller General. This office has drafted a report for the U.S. Congress which concludes that the U.S.-supported antidrug programs in Bolivia and Colombia have been ineffective.

Since the report also says that rampant corruption in Bolivia has contributed to the lack of success of the program, this must be promptly explained by the Bolivian Executive Branch.

Moreover, it would be opportune for U.S. Embassy officials in Bolivia to make the proper explanations on the nature of the Office of the Comptroller General and its credibility. This is necessary because despite what has been previously mentioned, the report states that whenever U.S. Government officials have been asked about the antidrug struggle in Bolivia, they have always expressed their recognition of the efforts that Bolivia is making in the implementation of this program. [passage omitted]

A Bolivian Government official has told Panamericana that if the Office of the Comptroller General knows of any persons involved in drug-trafficking activities in Bolivia, it should identify them. This should be done before talking about rampant corruption, because this is a dangerous generalization.

He added that today the Interior Ministry will issue a declaration on a report that a nongovernmental office has submitted to the U.S. Congress on the results of the antidrug struggle in Bolivia and Colombia.

The report that has been submitted by the office of the U.S. Comptroller General states that in 1987 Bolivian farmers increased the size of coca farms at three times the speed they were being eradicated by the government.

It adds that U.S. State Department-sponsored antidrug programs have been ineffective because of rampant corruption in Bolivia and because of the violence of Colombian drug traffickers, in addition to a notable increase in coca farming.

The Bolivian Government authority who talked to Panamericana said that Bolivians must take into account that the U.S. office which drafted the report controls how the U.S. budget is used and that, therefore, it has no competence in evaluating the results of the antidrug programs being carried out in Bolivia based on U.S.-Bolivian agreements. This office can only certify the amount that the U.S. Government has allotted to the antidrug program and how much of it has been disbursed.

In addition, the Bolivian Government official said the Office of the Comptroller General should explain why, of the $100 million that was allotted by the U.S. Government, only 10 percent of this amount was disbursed in 1987 for the Bolivian antidrug-struggle program. This is a minimal amount that is not in keeping with the demanding U.S. Government objective of implementing an effective cooperation program with the Bolivian antidrug program.

He also said there is considerable contradiction in U.S. Government reports regarding the antidrug issue because, while President Reagan has sent a note to the U.S. Congress certifying the progress that has been observed in Bolivia regarding the struggle against the production and manufacturing of cocaine, there is now a domestic accounting office that contradicts what was said by the U.S. President and the U.S. Congress.

He added that the Bolivian Government will officially request an explanation from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz on the nature and the objective of the report that has been issued by the U.S. Office of the Comptroller General.

Revollo: Ties With U.S. 'Highly Positive'

PY1611030088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo has said that the Armed Forces have close ties with the United States.

Revollo added that reports from the United States on the high level of corruption in our institutions are untrue because these reports have been distorted.

The defense minister said that relations with Washington are positive and cordial, and that Ambassador Gelbard is a friend of the Armed Forces.

[Begin Revollo recording] We are privileged. We have received substantial U.S. aid. Our relationship is cordial and highly positive, especially in the field of the armed forces.

Ambassador Gelbard is an excellent friend of the Armed Forces and we are very satisfied with the relationship between our Armed Forces and the U.S. Government. [end recording]

The defense minister added that a reduced budget has been approved for the military institutions but that the latter will observe these limitations so as not to alter the economic stability programs.

Revollo said that workers must also maintain their request for salary adjustments within rational and just limits so as not to relive the past inflationary process.

Charges Against U.S. Firm Not To Affect Talks

PY1611130288 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Fernando Illanes de la Riva said today that the charges made against the firm that manages our business deals abroad, charges that implicate the company in the laundering of drug trafficking money, will not affect the renegotiation of the Bolivian foreign de[illegible]

Minister Illanes, who was named by the government to negotiate with our international creditors, indicated that the charges by a U.S. daily against the firm Merrill Lynch have not proved that a crime was committed.

[Begin Illanes recording] This situation will not affect our renegotiation because our main creditors are U.S. banks, and because they are U.S. firms they believe that any person is innocent until found guilty. Therefore, Merrill Lynch is still innocent until a court proves its guilt. [end recording]

Illanes also said that Merrill Lynch is a very powerful U.S. firm and that its subsidiary, with which Bolivia contracted, would not be involved in laundering drug trafficking dollars.

Illanes concluded by saying that he is waiting for a call from the creditor banks and for the meetings with them here to renegotiate $500 million of the foreign debt.

Chamber of Deputies Ratifies Pacts With Cuba

PY1711135088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Yesterday the Chamber of Deputies approved a scientific and technical cooperation agreement in the area of health that had been signed by the Bolivian and Cuban Governments on 17 July 1985 in Havana.

The agreement includes personnel training; exchange of medicine, physical infrastructure, and medical equipment; and transfer of technology in priority areas. The Chamber also approved a cultural agreement signed by the Bolivian and Cuban Governments on 6 October 1986 in Havana.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With PRC

PY1711170388 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 7

[Excerpts] According to Chen Dongsheng, PRC Ambassador to Bolivia, the PRC is determined to cooperate in Bolivian agricultural and industrial development.

Yesterday Chen Dongsheng signed a technical and economic cooperation agreement by which the PRC will invest 20 million yuans (about $6 million) in agricultural development projects.

The document was signed during a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry by Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal on behalf of the Bolivian Government. During the ceremony Bedregal emphasized the "strengthening" of relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The final memorandum of the Bolivian-PRC agreement establishes that both parties will take appropriate measures to reactivate bilateral trade. The Bolivian representative emphasized the need to explore the trade swap system, particularly barter trade and the upcoming mutual accounts in the two countries. This proposal will be studied by the PRC.

The two delegations expressed their satisfaction over the progress of current projects, such as the soybean and peanut experimental station, the rice and vegetables experimental station, the tea cultivation and production plant, and the project for the partial rehabilitation of the Angostura irrigation system that will begin next year.

UNCDF Grants Aid Totaling $15.2 Million

PY1611164288 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p 6

[Summary] Yesterday Fernando Cossio, under secretary of the Bolivian Planning Ministry Public Investments Department, and Bernard Fery, head of the Latin American and Asian Department of the United Nations Capital Development Fund [UNCDF], signed an agreement through which the mentioned international organization will grant Bolivian financial aid for $15.2 million to finance various projects during 1989.

Decree Sets General Election for 7 May 1989

PY1611164088 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Yesterday the government published decree 22058 which calls for the election of a president, a vice president, senators, and deputies on Sunday, 7 May 1989.

Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran revealed the contents of the decree and said that the government decision shows the democratic vocation of the Executive Branch.

"The decision shows that the government respects the law. We (the government) took over on 6 August 1985 and swore to respect, and to ensure that others respect, the law. We have been doing that."

Duran added that the call to general elections is in itself a very important democratic event.

The text of the Decree follows: Victor Paz Estenssoro Constitutional President of the Republic

Considering:

That the present Constitutional Government concludes its term on 6 August 1989, in accordance to the law of 5 August 1985 which regulates Article 87 of the Constitution.

That the Electoral Law of 8 April 1980, and the amendment introduced on 20 May 1986, and the amendment introduced on 20 May 1986, establish through Article 85 that the Executive Branch will issue a decree calling national elections at least 180 days in advance.

That Article 86 of the Electoral Law establishes that the general election for a president, a vice president, senators, and deputies should be held on the first Sunday of May of the year in which their terms end.

At a meeting of the Council of Ministers,

Decrees:

Article 1. A general election throughout the entire territory of the country to elect a president, a vice president, senators, and deputies will be held on 7 May 1989.

Article 2. The Executive Branch will provide the funds through the National Treasury for the organization of the election.

Signed at Government Palace in La Paz on 4 November 1988.

Victor Paz Estenssoro, Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez, Alfonso Revollo Thenier, Ramiro Cabezas Masses, Andres Petricevic Raznatovic, Luis A. Pena Rueda, Jaime Villalobos Sanjinez, Fernando Illanes de la Riva, Walter H. Zuleta Roncal, Jaime Zegada Hurtado, Juan Carlos Duran Saucedo, Fernando Romero Moreno, Enrique Ipina Melgar, Luis F. Palenque Cordero, Joaquin Arce Lema, Jose G. Justiniano Sandoval, Franklin Anaya Vazquez, Herman Antelo Laughlin.

This is a true copy of the original. Signed: Presidential Files Department Director Hernan Murillo Soliz

Brazil

Aeronautics Minister Discusses Election Results

PY1811001888 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Nov 88 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—After a meeting President Jose Sarney held with the military ministers at Alvorada Palace yesterday, Aeronautics Minister Octavio Moreira Lima said: "There is nothing to say about the winners. Those who were elected will be installed." The electoral victories of the PT and PDT [Democratic Worker's Party] in the country's main cities were discussed during the meeting.

The aeronautics minister ruled out the possibility that the results will not be respected. According to the minister, the victory of the leftists in the elections was touched upon "very lightly."

Moreira Lima said that within the government there is a conviction that the responsibility of governing cities with chronic problems—as is the case with Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo—will provoke an inevitable deterioration of the status of the PT and PDT in the people's eyes.

Government Meetings on Energy Workers' Strikes

PY1711132088 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The government asked the Superior Labor Court to debate whether the strike by workers in the oil-producing sector is legal. The government is also studying an emergency plan to prevent fuel difficulties.

The sector's strike was the central topic of two meetings held today by President Sarney with ministers and fuel sector officials. [passage omitted]

The mines and energy minister today met with the planning minster to study a proposal to be made to the striking workers. [passage omitted]

In the afternoon these two ministers met with 11 other ministers at President Sarney's meeting room. The Petrobras and the National Oil Council chairmen, the Senate chairman, and a representative of the Chamber of Deputies chairman also attended the meeting.

President Sarney's main intention was not to analyze the proposal to be made to the workers. His main intention was to report to the ministers and to the congress on the seriousness of the strikes at Petrobras, at the electrical plants, and at the National Iron and Steel Company. President Sarney believes that after the promulgation of the Constitution it became necessary to rule on the legality of strikes in sectors providing essential services.

The government authorized the import of 16,000 tons of cooking gas, 60,000 tons of diesel oil, and 30,000 tons of aviation kerosene.

According to Petrobras Trade Director Carlos Santana, the fuels will be imported mostly from Venezuela.

Minas Gerais Power Workers End 9-Day Strike

PY1711164688 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The workers of the Minas Gerais Power Company, SEMIG, have decided to go back to work after 9 days on strike. The workers accepted the company's proposal for 117 percent salary readjustment. They are going back to work with the shift that starts at 1130 tonight.

Chile

Pinochet Willing To Discuss Institutional Reform

PY1711151388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1035 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Santiago, 17 Nov (EFE)—Chilean Chief of State General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, for the first time since his defeat in the 5 October plebiscite, has admitted that his government is willing to discuss proposals to change the institutional order.

At a dinner last night with followers from the city of Puerto Natales, 2,400 km south of Santiago, Pinochet made several remarks on the current political situation.

Pinochet stated: "I must emphatically say that the government will be open to receive and discuss well-intentioned proposals which will improve the institutional order."

Earlier the Chilean chief of state had stated: "We admit that there are gaps we must patch up and that they are the necessary result of the great changes we have experienced over the past few years."

The government's inclination toward possible reforms of the 1981 Constitution was anticipated last week by Interior Minister Carlos Caceres, who was installed on 21 October. It was also reaffirmed last Tuesday by the minister secretary general of government, Miguel Angel Poduje.

Last Friday, over a national radio and television hookup, Minister Caceres stated that the Constitution, "as any human work, can be improved." He then expressed the government's interest in hearing opinions on this subject but within the current legal system.

A month before, although he publicly admitted his defeat in the 5 October plebiscite, Pinochet stated that the text of the Constitution was "unchangeable," and added that the date for relinquishing power to a democratic government, scheduled for March 1990, will not be moved forward.

The opposition Coalition of Parties for Democracy [Concentraction de Partidos por la Democracia] (CPPD) has proposed four main changes to the Constitution, approved in a disputed plebiscite in 1980, to make it more democratic.

These proposals are: to change the mechanisms for constitutional reform; to eliminate the ideological prohibitions against Marxist groups; to elect the entire Senate directly, rather than designating one-third of its members; and to change the function and members of the National Security Council.

Navy Commander Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, chairman of the military junta that has been playing the role of the Legislative Branch since 1973, was consulted about these reforms, and he said that they will not be accepted by the government.

He added, however, that certain changes regarding other aspects of the Constitution could be negotiated.

Another member of the junta, Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange, was asked yesterday whether he agrees with Merino's statement. He declined to give a concrete answer and limited himself to saying that the Executive Branch must conduct the political talks.

The conservative magazine QUE PASA reported today that at the presidential La Moneda Palace, "people are already betting on how long it would take for Patricio Aylwin, CPPD spokesman and chairman of the Christian Democratic Party, to formally present his proposals."

In several statements the CPPD has proposed that negotiations on the amendments must be carried out with the Armed Forces, and specifically with the military junta. He thus avoided referring specifically to Gen Augusto Pinochet.

A CPPD source has told EFE that "Minister Caceres has built a bridge for dialogue, but that the strength of the pillars that support that bridge is still to be tested."

This statement refers to the frustrated dialogue the opposition held in 1983 with then Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa, following mass demonstrations against the military regime.

That dialogue, sponsored by the Catholic Church, did not yield any positive result, except to give some tacit legal recognition to the opposition that had been operating without it. The recognition was formalized for the 5 October plebiscite, when three opposition political parties were legalized throughout the country.

Rejects Constitutional Reform

PY1711235388 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet has rejected the possibility of reforming Article 8 of the Constitution. He also rejected any reform to the provisions for creating the Senate and the National Security Council.

The chief of state said that the constitutional reforms that have been proposed by the opposition are not appropriate for the country's interest because they undermine the regime's basic structure.

Pinochet made these remarks at the end of a luncheon he had with the Punta Arenas community. This was his last activity in that city before flying to Coihaique in the 11th Region.

In his speech, Pinochet indicated that to give communism a role in the political spectrum would grant it the power to use democracy to destroy democracy. He said that on this point the government will remain inflexible.

He also said: "We will not shrink from the task of enhancing the legislative functions through the election of senators by such respected organizations as the Supreme Court and the National Security Council.

He stressed that experience has demonstrated that the law must not be a mere transaction between the interests of political parties or of party coalitions.

Regarding the National Security Council, the president stated that within the system this organization integrates the three branches of state and the four branches of national defense.

He said that it will not be possible to again isolate the defense branches and even less so to leave them at the mercy of subordinate political objectives.

Pinochet also said that we cannot allow the Constitution, which is the pillar on which democracy is based, to be exposed to an occasional political majority or to incidental electoral pacts.

He added that the opposition, under the pretext of improving the Constitution, intends to destroy the country's new institutional setup.

He also mentioned that despite the time that has passed, the opposition has not answered the government's question as to whether it will respect the current institutional setup.

Pinochet added that it is obvious that in this type of situation any type of talks run into obstacles.

Colombia

Venezuelan Response to Protest Note 'Spiteful'

PA1811022688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0002 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Report by Raul Gutierrez; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A new diplomatic rift has arisen between Colombia and the neighboring Republic of Venezuela following a protest note sent by our Foreign Ministry to the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry. The note denounces the massacre of 14 fishermen, including two Colombians whom the Venezuelan Armed Forces accused of being subversives.

The Venezuelan Government decided that it would not be scolded by Colombia, so the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry sent a note to our Foreign Ministry which said that Venezuela rejected the terms used in the Colombian protest note.

Colombia has sent 17 Foreign Ministry notes to Venezuela in the past 2 years, all concerning incidents that have directly or indirectly affected Colombian citizens. Only 2 of the 17 protest notes have received a reply, and they never included the results of the investigations requested by our government.

The last note represents a protest from our government for the murder of Jose Antonio Aregua and Justo Pastor Ceballos on 29 October. They were assassinated along with 12 Venezuelan citizens when the Venezuelan Army mistook them for National Liberation Army rebels in Cano Colorada, Arauca Department, along the Venezuelan border.

Even though there is evidence that the Venezuelan authorities made a mistake, the country's reply to the note was spiteful and unsatisfactory. This represents the worst diplomatic incident between the two countries so far this year.

Ildegar Perez, Venezuelan ambassador to Colombia, personally referred to the state of relations between the two countries:

[Perez] "Let us say that relations at this point are delicate, but I would not characterize them as critical or extremely difficult."

The Venezuelan Government has ordered that the two survivors of the 29 October massacre at the border be tried. Moreover, the dispute between the two countries is being exploited in the Venezuelan presidential campaign. Very few, however, dare to speak the truth about the situation.

[Venezuelan Deputy Juvencio Pulgar] "We have disputes and we should not cover them up. Colombia and Venezuela have things to protest about, but only a dialogue will lead to an agreement to settle these disputes."

Government Criticized for Uraba Situation

PA1711143088 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 11 Nov 88 p 5-A

[Editorial by Alvaro Gomez: "Everything Was Done Wrong"]

[Text] Everything went wrong in Uraba, and perhaps all of it could have been avoided. All that happened there was foreseeable, and the state had the means to make its presence felt in a positive way, to find peace soon, and to reestablish public order.

The misfortunes of the region stem more from its wealth than from poverty. This is a paradox that has arisen many times in different parts of the world. Because there is a substantial amount of new money there, people come in search of opportunities that do not exist in other parts of the country. The violence is generated when this movement of adventurers concentrates on the possibilities of making a profit. For example, this was the cause of the violence that took place in California when gold was discovered there during the 19th century, violence that eventually became the great theme of the American cowboy film epic.

The establishment of order in Uraba was never an easy matter. However, any existing order collapsed approximately 4 years ago when the authorities turned their backs on the rural areas. The Antioquia Governorship softened its attitude toward the first systematic acts of violence that produced the initial feeling of panic. Afterward, labor laws were broken, which, by virtue of the Labor Ministry's weakness, allowed violence-prone sectors to gain control of the major unions, against the will of the majority. There followed a stage of unharmonious transactions that gave rise to a state of total anarchy. The feeling of insecurity was so strong that, it would seem, all classes and all groups yearned for the reestablishment of some kind of authority.

One day, President Barco's government decided to create a military command. This decision seemed to mark the beginning of a grand policy of restoration. There was broad interest, even among guerrilla groups, which were also suffering the consequences of that all-against-all war that had taken root in the Uraba region. It seemed the appropriate time to make a general call to reason and reconciliation.

Evidently the presence of a single military commander in such a troubled region would not suffice. There was also the danger that pacification efforts would be limited to a few demonstrations of power that would restore the police authorities.

I then had the opportunity to address the president and point out that he had at his disposal extraordinary powers enabling him to organize joint actions—legal, economic, and social—that tended to the population's most pressing needs. The president assigned the task to the three ministers most closely connected to the problem: defense, government, and justice. We saw how these ministers, with the powers assigned to them under the existing state of siege and the pro tempore powers granted by the Congress, could establish a judicial structure that covered all areas of crime in an efficient and speedy manner. The necessary number of judges could be appointed and accommodated in portable bungalows; in addition, secretarial staff would be assigned to them and adequate protection provided. Land reform programs could be targeted to that area to eliminate disputes stemming from land tenure. The government could have taken the initiative by assigning budget allocations needed to build camps for homeless workers and to carry out an intense sanitation campaign. We foresaw, with immense satisfaction, the simplification of current procedural codes through executive decrees to shorten the length of legal proceedings. All of this was possible and formed part of a captivating, social action project that should have made guerrillas disappear from the region.

Administrative meddling and my subsequent kidnapping prevented the coordination of that initiative. Uraba became a testing ground for all forms of violence. The military commander again found himself alone. The plan to carry out at least a census of workers was sabotaged, and the authorities thus lost a new battle. All of this was accepted to avoid greater evils. Yet greater evils arose. The country is under the impression that sovereignty has disappeared on several occasions during this war, which the authorities either would not or could not prevent in time. Many people have died. It has not yet been possible to assess property losses, but they seem to be enormous. Meanwhile, the other losses that have resulted from damage already suffered through the abandonment of facilities, the loss of confidence, and growing insecurity will affect an entire generation.

Everything was done wrong. An opportunity to create a model of development and coexistence in Uraba was wasted. Time continues to be wasted. The government must take the initiative and not wait until new attacks and acts of destruction occur before timidly applying the powers at its disposal. Governments should be accountable to public opinion for what they do, but also for what they fail to do. This has been the case with Uraba.

Ecuador

Borja on Debt, Economy, Foreign Relations

PA1811043788 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 14 Nov 88 p 14

[Report by Ada Crespo]

[Excerpts] Quito, 13 Nov—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja believes that the foreign debt is Latin America's yoke and that the blame for this critical problem should be shared by those who irresponsibly incurred the debt, without goal or sense, as well as those who courted governments—legitimate and illegitimate—trying to find a place for the surplus cash in their banks that accumulated as a result of rising Middle East oil prices. Both debtors and creditors have to make the necessary sacrifices to solve the problem.

Fortunately, paths are opening up for unconventional solutions to the debt problem, and understanding voices have been heard in political and financial circles in the lending countries. This is encouraging because Latin America's debt is the principal obstacle to its development. We must find a solution, and it cannot be the solution traditionally given by the IMF. We have to find

something new, untried, and imaginative, said Borja, who in Ecuador is considered a progressive president who is committed to his voters. [passage omitted]

We have made considerable progress in the 70 days of this administration, Borja said. We managed to stabilize the economy and the value of the sucre, which was fluctuating and causing uncertainty everywhere because economic tightening measures were being alternated with economic reactivation measures. This vacillation caused a tremendous wave of speculation and price increases that are punishing the economy and the people. Stabilizing the economy and fighting inflation are the goals we established during the election campaign, and now that we are in power, we will make every effort to achieve them. [passage omitted]

Borja said that even his worst enemies concede that Ecuador has completely recovered its democratic coexistence. There is absolute freedom of expression. The Inter-American Press Association has recognized it. Every social sector has the right to express its opinion, criticize the government, and propose alternatives. He committed himself to this in his inaugural speech on 10 August when he defined himself as a man who prefers democratic dialogue over totalitarian monologue. [passage omitted]

The fact that Quito became, at my inauguration, a gathering place for men of different ideological beliefs, demonstrates our deep democratic conviction and our pluralistic style of government. When he was asked whether the invitation to Fidel Castro marked his government as extreme leftist, he replied firmly that this was a senseless statement because it could also be said that his invitation to Ronald Reagan to participate in the inauguration made him an extreme rightist. Such statements are senseless. On the other hand, talks were held here between heads of state that would not have occurred otherwise. Our people received everyone affectionately, and I sincerely believe that this was the first step to insert Ecuador in the international arena after a dark period of ostracism.

He spoke about his government's relations with the United States, Ecuador's principal market, which he described as very friendly and fluid within a framework of nonintervention and mutual respect. This, he said, is the norm for his country's relations with every country. [passage omitted]

Asked whether it was not interference in the affairs of another state when he said that he was pleased by the no vote in Chile's referendum, he smiled and replied: I was afraid of that when I made the statement, but I had to overcome my fear. [passage omitted]

Borja said that Ecuador is trying to make state enterprises efficient and not trying to put them in private hands. He explained that there are no plans to nationalize enterprises because of the inefficiency of nationalization. He said the countries that adopted this system are, after 60 years of failure, returning to mixed-economy systems. The case of Ecuadoran oil cannot be interpreted as a nationalization. He said it was a matter of transferring the administration from the minority stockholder, Texaco, over to the majority stockholder, the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation.

Regarding the drop in oil prices, he said that it affects Ecuador as it does Mexico. We hope it will be a temporary problem, he said, and that prices will rise again so that we can solve the problems of both Ecuador and Mexico. [passage omitted]

I am not afraid to make unprecedented decisions, he stated, if they help to establish justice and peace, especially the peace that is the country's most important economic resource.

We asked whether that peace is being threatened by the guerrillas. He replied that there are no guerrillas in the country at this time, as there were during the previous administration, and that if there were any, the control and detention of the guerrillas would be undertaken with deep respect for human rights and Ecuadoran law.

He characterized drug trafficking as a crime against humanity. He favors fighting it vigorously before it is too late in Ecuador, where the problem is still in its early stages. [passage omitted]

Venezuela Grants $25-Million Stopgap Loan

PA1611195088 Paris AFP in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Quito, 15 Nov (AFP)—The Venezuelan Embassy in Quito today confirmed that the Venezuelan Government has granted Ecuador a $25-million stopgap loan so Ecuador can receive financing from the IDB.

Ecuador owed $25 million to the IDB and was unable to receive further loans from that multinational organization until it paid its current debt.

IDB President Enrique Iglesias visited Ecuador last week, and he and Ecuadoran officials announced that Ecuador would again receive loans once it paid its debt to the IDB. Ecuador will pay back the $25 million it borrowed from Venezuela once Ecuador begins to receive IDB funds.

Two months ago, Ecuador finished paying for the 12 million barrels of oil sent by Venezuela after the March 1987 earthquake, which destroyed part of Ecuador's oil facilities.

Chief of Drug Control Directorate Appointed
PA1711183188 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Nov 88 p A-2

[Summary] Attorney General German Carrion has appointed Klever Espinoza Vega as chief of the National Directorate Against Illegal Drug Traffic, DINACONTES, [Direccion Nacional Contra el Trafico Ilicito de Estupefacientes]. Espinoza Vega has worked in this field for several years and he assumes his duties immediately.

Uruguay

Group of 8 Economy Ministers To Meet in Brazil
PY1711172288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0838 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 17 Nov (EFE)—The economy ministers of the Group of Eight countries will meet in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, beginning 11 December to discuss the different mechanisms to reduce the foreign debt of their countries. The overall Latin American foreign debt is about $420 billion.

Among other things, the ministers will discuss the adjustment of the debt to the lower values set by the international secondary market. They will also discuss the creation of a system of debt swapping among the Group of Eight countries.

The meeting was convened by the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, and Uruguay during the recent summit in Punta del Este, 147 km from Montevideo.

Panama has not participated since February because of the internal institutional problems that were brought about by the removal of President Arturo Delvalle. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Ministry Reports Increased Oil Production
PA1611195488 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p 1

[Summary] According to the Ministry of Energy and Mine's latest weekly report, the average daily crude oil production between January and September 1988 was 1.581 million barrels. Production in the same period in 1987 was 1.55 million barrels. This reflects an increase of 31,000 barrels a day for 1988, or a 2-percent increase.

Government Rejects Colombia's Indemnity Request
PA1711182588 Caracas Venezuela de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Report by Martin Pacheco; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Pacheco] As is known, 14 persons died in El Amparo in circumstances that are being investigated by the military courts. Two of the persons were Colombian. Last week, Colombian President Virgilio Barco's government sent a note to the Venezuelan Government requesting indemnification for the relatives of the persons who died. The Venezuelan response was delivered by Venezuelan Ambassador to Colombia Dr Hildegarde Persenini, and its essential terms were announced by Acting Foreign Minister Horacio Arteaga:

[Arteaga] "Obviously, the legal organizations of Venezuela are the ones exclusively called upon to determine the truth about what happened. As you know, an investigation is currently under way, and one cannot jump to conclusions in such a situation. We do not accept this note and reject any attempt of intervention in Venezuelan domestic affairs."

[Pacheco] Meanwhile, the latest military developments—such as the deployment of tanks to Carmelita and Salavineta, the death of a second corporal in Fuerte Tuna, and the decision made by the judge who is familiar with the Amparo incident—were topics broached by Defense Minister Italo Delvalle Aliegro. He said they are matters that concern the Armed Forces but do not involve it as an institute:

[Delvalle] "The Armed Forces are perfectly calm, fulfilling their daily tasks and those in keeping with the republican plan. All the personnel of the armed institute are perfectly aware of the latest incidents and what happened. We are seeking the means to resolve our problems. But the institute cannot be bogged down with this type of problem or be placed in the middle. At this moment, the armed institute is engaged in guaranteeing the electoral process in accordance with the republican plan, distributing our electoral material, overseeing the developments in the polling places, and fulfilling our sacred duty of guaranteeing the Venezuelans the election of their new authorities."

[Pacheco] Meanwhile, Interior Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said the government hopes the tribunal decision will be respected and there will not be any further incidents in our country:

[Consalvi] "It is an extremely touchy incident. Personally, I hope it will not lead to new incidents. We must have confidence in our judicial authorities."

[Pacheco] The case will be taken up by the military tribunals—by the permanent military court in this case. Proceedings will begin when the two persons, against whom arrest warrants were issued, go before the court.

Military Captures 3 Alleged Colombian Guerrillas
PA1611165788 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] In Zulia, security agencies continue to investigate the possible relation of three presumed Colombian guerrillas with a Colombian rebel organization. The men were captured during an operation carried out by members of Border Detachment 32.

The firefight occurred in Catatumbo, near the border with Colombia. After the clash, the Venezuelan military seized arms and a lot of ammunition used by the presumed guerrillas in illegal activities. Clashes between the Venezuelan and Colombian military constantly occur in this area. In this particular incident, a guerrilla forward column apparently intended to kidnap cattleman Norberto Gutierrez. An investigation is being conducted.

[Begin recording] [Vinicio Barrios Puche, chief of Border Detachment 32] An investigation is being conducted to determine whether the men are National Liberation Army members. [end recording]

Large Import Payments Cut International Reserves
PA1811122588 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Nov 88 pp 1, D-7

[Summary] According to figures for the 1st 10 months of 1988, in addition to a drop in petroleum revenues, the outflow of foreign currency to pay for imports posed the heaviest burden on the international reserves of the Central Bank of Venezuela [BCV] instead of the service of the foreign debt, as was the case in previous years. As of 21 October, the BCV allocated $6.016 million to pay for imports. This figure represents a 64.51 percent increase that is, $2.359 million, over the same period last year.

Police Burn Marijuana, Cocaine, Bazuco
PA1511160688 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Summary] Authorities today disposed of 854.4 kg of marijuana and 354 kg of cocaine and bazuco at La Rinconada race track crematory. Several officials attended the ceremony.